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LOVE-ROCK MUSICAL
HAIR BRINGS THE '60S BACK IN STYLE {page 27}

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{page 6}

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News worth sharing.

▶ They're known for wearing only lingerie while playing full-contact football, but these members of the Toronto Triumph teamed up with PETA yesterday at Yonge and Dundas to encourage Torontonians to leave fur off their holiday shopping lists. Many top fashion designers and retailers — including Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren and Tommy Hilfiger — are 100 per cent fur-free, PETA says.

CONTRIBUTED

They've got tougher problems to tackle than each other

Jail sentence

Mother gets 11 years

She went shopping while son lay dying at home with severe burns
{page 4}

A coach's sex crimes

Graham James pleads guilty to more charges
{page 15}

Spare a nickel and a dime?

Transit officials say 15-cent increase would stave off cuts, but only delay the pain
Fewer buses also a problem
'You can't ask those with the lowest income to be paying for a subsidy reduction,' says TTC chair Karen Stintz

Would a higher TTC fare hike in January be worth the pain if it prevents service cuts on 62 bus and streetcar routes?

A 15-cent fare increase could be on the table at next week's TTC board meeting, instead of the 10-cent increase that was expected to be approved.

But the extra nickel will be considered seriously only if the city and TTC find a way to maintain current service beyond next year. Nobody wants to go for that, if it means the agony of reducing buses for more riders next year.

The TTC expects to provide 15 million rides next year.

TTC vice-chair Peter Milczyn prompted the city's budget committee to have staff check into the impact of a 15-cent increase as a means of maintaining current service levels rather than going back to pre-2004 standards.

The extra nickel would raise $15 million.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

More budget coverage {page 3}

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Nutrition programs under threat

A hot lunch program launched in March at an east-end school where some children used to bring only Ziplocs of cookies as their midday meal may have to close if Toronto city council agrees to cut funding to nutrition programs by 10 per cent.

The popular new lunch program at Secord Public School already draws 215 students four days a week, "many from families who work more than one job, often shift-work, so nutritious lunches can be difficult to arrange," said parent Heather Tormey, chair of the school council.

"I love the food; it's better than bringing cold chicken nuggets from home," said Maisha Rahman, 8, as she ate a grilled cheese sandwich yesterday.

She is one of about 14,000 Toronto students who could lose breakfast, lunch or snack programs if the city cuts its annual $3.8 million funding for nutrition programs. Toronto traditionally pays $3.8 million, Ontario pays about $4.1 million and the other $3.6 million comes from parents and hard-won donations.

But the cut comes with a recommendation to close the newest programs, which would deliver a body blow to Toronto's Catholic schools programs, more than half of which have opened in the last three years. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Secord student Sean MacLeod eats a grilled cheese sandwich.

Budget cuts criticized

More than 340 sign up to tell city committee what they think

The proposed budget includes $88 million in service cuts. Deputations started yesterday and are scheduled to continue until late tonight. Here are some of the voices.

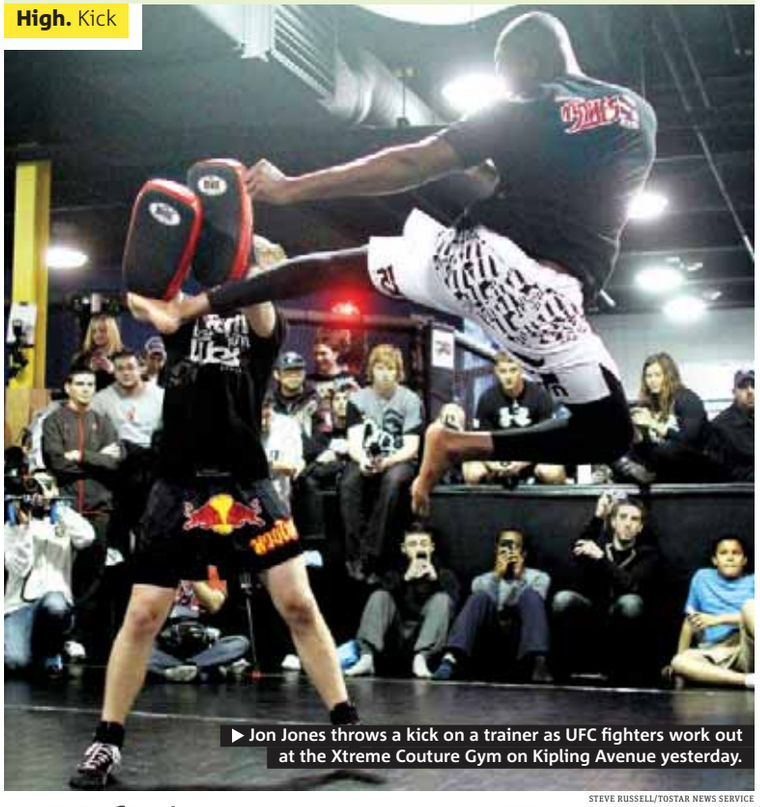
Bruce Cox, executive director of Greenpeace Canada: Cox said 1,700 Torontonians die prematurely each year of ailments related to air quality and that proposed cuts to the urban forest (trees are natural air filters) and transit are backward thinking.

David Smith, resident of Birchmount Residence: The shelter for elderly single men faces potential closure. "We have gentlemen in there that are mentally, physically handicapped. We have people that have no legs, one leg, walkers, scooters and extreme fears of even going outside... If you want to look at the cuts, don't look at us. We're senior citizens, we've done our time."

Kate McAuley, assistant curator of Toronto's First Post Office: The small museum would see its city funding reduced. "We're the only museum that looks at the original Town of York in the city of Toronto... should our CPIP grant be cut, even if it's only 10 per cent... it could shut this museum down.

Mike Del Grande, budget chief, speaking to reporters: "I am writing notes but there aren't a whole lot of notes to write because what I'm looking for is people that want to suggest how we fund it (threatened service) and people have said: 'Well, that's not our problem, it's your problem.' " TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

High. Kick



▶ Jon Jones throws a kick on a trainer as UFC fighters work out at the Xtreme Couture Gym on Kipling Avenue yesterday.

STEVE RUSSELL/TOSTAR NEWS SERVICE

UFC fighters return to Toronto

After the overwhelming turnout at Rogers Centre in April, UFC is coming back to Toronto with UFC140 at the Air Canada Centre on Saturday.

1 news

Health Canada is imploring physicians not to prescribe the drug Avastin for conditions other than cancer, as serious complications have been linked to such off-label use in the U.S. Scan the code for the story.

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Indonesian police give the force's lip-synching cop the axe. Video at metronews.ca/video

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11 years for mom in scalding death

Melissa Alexander picked up two Kanye West CDs and other items as her son lay dying at home

Condemning her lack of remorse, a judge has handed an 11-year-sentence to a woman who went shopping for CDs while her 19-month-old son lay dying of catastrophic burns.

"The sentence must be sufficient to reflect society's repugnance for this appalling tragedy," Ontario Superior Court Justice Anne Molloy told Melissa Alexander yesterday.

Alexander, 26, was already in custody after being convicted of manslaughter in the Sept. 11, 2007 death of her son, Miguel Fernandes.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Melissa Alexander, seen with her now dead son.

"This was a horrific crime with devastating consequences for Miguel and for those who loved him," Molloy said.

Despite her toddler having severe water scalding burns to 40 per cent of his body, Alexander left Miguel with his two-and-a-half-year-old brother in her Jane Street apartment while she went shopping for two hours.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

For more local news visit metronews.ca/toronto

Celebrity. Pose

▶ Celebrities ramp up excitement on the CIBC Trading floor for CIBC Miracle Day yesterday, which has raised more than $60 million for some 400 children's charities since 1984 thanks to the generosity of CIBC employees and clients.

CONTRIBUTED

Raising money for charity

Celebrities and others, from left, Gerry Dee, comedian; Roman Dubczak, head of cash equities, CIBC; Brian Stemmle, Canadian Ski Hall of Fame inductee; Curt Harnett, three-time Olympic medalist; Brian Burke, president and GM of Toronto Maple Leafs; Alice Cooper, legendary rocker; Hayley Wickenheiser, four-time Olympic medalist; Jim Beattie, head of cash equities trading, CIBC.

Search continues for missing Woodbridge infant

Police have renewed their pleas to family members and friends for help in finding a missing Woodbridge infant after arresting his father Tuesday night.

Police say they have no evidence that two-month-old George Doodhnaught has met with foul play, but they are deeply concerned for the welfare of the boy, who was born prematurely and may be in need of medical attention.

George has not been seen since his father, 31-year-old Ricky Doodhnaught, fled from police and Children's Aid workers when they attempted to seize two children under a court order at a Vaughan home on Nov. 24.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Father Ricky Doodhnaught and baby George Doodhnaught

Police said George's mother was arrested at the scene and one child was brought to a place of safety, but Doodhnaught fled with the child.

Doodhnaught was arrested Tuesday night and faces charges of abduction in contravention of a custody order and two additional, unrelated counts of theft of gas.

He is being held in custody and is scheduled to appear in Newmarket court on Dec. 13.

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Border deal aims to reduce bottlenecks

PM says Canada shares U.S. security concerns, but measures to deal with criminal, terrorist threats can hinder job creation and growth

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President Barack Obama at a news conference at the White House yesterday in Washington.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is hailing a new set of border agreements between Canada and the United States as a merger between security concerns and the need for commerce and travel.

Harper says the deals on perimeter security and regulatory harmonization represent the most significant steps forward in Canada-U.S. co-operation since the North American Free Trade Agreement.

In the text of a speech delivered after a meeting with President Barack Obama in Washington, Harper says the agreements create a "new, modern border for a new century." He calls the deals "practical steps" to reduce border issues that hinder economic growth.

Both countries agree the best way to deal with trouble is with smarter systems at the continental perimeter, minimizing multiple inspections of freight.

"We also believe that, just as threats should be stopped at the perimeter, trusted travellers should cross the border more quickly," Harper said.

The second joint initiative will reduce regulatory barriers to trade by streamlining and aligning standards "where it makes sense to do so."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Keystone pipeline

Obama pledges 'rigorous' review of Keystone pipeline

▶ The Obama administration's move to delay a decision on whether to proceed with the pipeline was poorly received in Canada, which views the project as critical to its economy.

Main perimeter pact initiative still years away

Key features of the Canada-U.S. perimeter security pact — including a controversial new entry-exit system for crossing the 49th parallel — are three to four years from seeing the light of day.

The 29-point deal and an accord on regulatory reform aim to streamline trade while protecting the continent from terrorist attacks and other security threats by aligning approaches and screening more people and cargo before they arrive in North America.

Obama said Canada would play an important role in the faltering American economy's recovery. But many of the initiatives will be years in the making.

Full implementation of the entry-exit control regime isn't expected until June 2014, the same year a new integrated cargo screening strategy is expected to be fully online.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEXICO SAYS:

Canadian led plot to smuggle Gadhafi's son

Mexican authorities said yesterday that a son of the late Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi and three relatives had plotted to sneak into Mexico under false names and move to a safe house at a posh Pacific coast resort.

The elaborate plan to bring al-Saadi Gadhafi to Mexico allegedly involved two Mexicans, a Canadian and a Danish suspect, all of whom have been detained, Interior Secretary Alejandro Poire said.

The plot was uncovered by Mexican intelligence agents in early September as al-Saadi was fleeing Libya shortly after his father's ouster. He never made it to Mexico, but did reach the Western African country of Niger, where he has been living.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MacKay threatens to sue MPs

Defence Minister Peter MacKay is considering legal action against MPs who accused him of lying about a ride he took aboard a search-and-rescue helicopter.

Opposition members have called for MacKay to apologize and even to resign over his use of military resources to shuttle him to the airport in Gander, N.L., from a personal vacation at a remote fishing lodge.

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Trafficking ring busted

- China arrests 600 allegedly involved with smuggling children
- Problem remains widespread

Chinese police arrested 608 suspects and rescued 178 children in busts of two separate child trafficking networks, authorities said yesterday.

Prosecutors said 5,000 police across 10 provinces co-operated for six months on the investigation and moved in to arrest the suspects last week.

In China, traditional preference for male heirs and a strict one-child policy has driven a thriving market in baby boys, who fetch a considerably higher price than girls. Girls and women also are abducted and used as labourers or as brides for unwed sons.

Tens of thousands of children go missing every year, though the exact numbers of victims are difficult to obtain.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Acting. Devilish

▶ Exiled Tibetans wear devil horns during a protest against China in New Delhi, India, yesterday.

TSERING TOPGYAL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tibetans protest in India

Tibet is currently under the administration of China, a situation that the Central Tibetan Administration considers an illegitimate military occupation.

Man admits spy agency gave cash

A longtime activist for the disputed Kashmir territory who gave hundreds of thousands of dollars in contributions to members of the U.S. Congress acknowledged yesterday he secretly received millions of dollars from Pakistan's spy service, in violation of U.S. law. Syed Ghulam Nabi Fai, executive director of the Washington-based Kashmiri American Council, said he used the $3.5 million to fund his council's lobbying efforts.

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Pricey dozen

- Wildfires in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.
- Hurricane Irene.
- Missouri, Souris floods.
- Mississippi River floods.
- Southern Plains, Southwest drought/heat wave.
- Midwest and Southeast tornadoes and storms.
- Twisters in the Midwest and Southeast.
- Ohio Valley tornadoes.
- Tornadoes in the Midwest and Southeast.
- Tornadoes in the Southeast and Midwest.
- Tornadoes in the Midwest and Southeast.
- Groundhog Day blizzard.

U.S. hit by 12 weather disasters this year

Number of billion-dollar calamities rising each decade Experts blame global warming and chance

JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

A woman secures a flag to a tree after a massive tornado devastated the town of Joplin, Mo., in May.

The wild weather year south of the border has set another record: A dozen billion-dollar catastrophes, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said yesterday.

NOAA uses $1 billion as a benchmark for the worst weather disasters. This year's total of 12 calamities matches the number for all of the 1980s, even when the older figures are adjusted for inflation.

Extreme weather in the U.S. has killed more than 1,000 people this year, said Jack Hayes, director of the U.S. National Weather Service. The dozen billion-dollar disasters alone add up to $52 billion in damage. Hayes said this is the worst year for extreme weather that he has seen, calling it "the deadly, destructive and relentless 2011."

And this year's total may not stop at 12. Officials are still adding up the damage from Tropical Storm Lee and the pre-Halloween Northeast snowstorm. So far they are both at the $750 million mark.

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SALVATORE LAPORTA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Police escort fugitive mobster Michele Zagaria, centre, in Naples, Italy, yesterday. He is wanted for murder, extortion, kidnapping, mafia association and other crimes.

Last major Casalesi mobster dug up

About $2.7 billion US in illegal assets seized from clan in recent years

Police have captured one of Italy's most-wanted fugitive mobsters, arresting the last major boss of one of Italy's bloodiest mafia clans.

Michele Zagaria, on the run since 1995, was found in an underground bunker in Casapesenna, in the province of Caserta in southern Italy, the headquarters of the Casalesi clan of the Neapolitan Camorra.

Anti-mafia prosecutor Piero Grasso said it was likely Zagaria had spent his years as a fugitive nearby since mob bosses "can only exercise their power if they're in an environment that protects them." Police were digging around the bunker for some time. Zagaria was watching their progress on closed-circuit TVs and gave up after police cut off electricity that was pumping in fresh air.

"The government won," he told police, the ANSA news agency reported. "It's over." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Deforestation pivotal in demise of Mayans?

The deforestation of Central America during the Mayan era amplified drought conditions in the region and may have led to the demise of their civilizations, according to new research presented by NASA at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union.

Those regions once more have become a vital part of the tropical rain forest, but the study "suggests that if deforestation were to occur in the future, then potentially the drought could re-emerge," said climatologist Ben Cook, who is affiliated with NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

Cook recreated a map that showed where in Central America the land was deforested for agricultural use during the Mayan Era, dating back between 800 AD and 950 AD.

During this period, there was widespread deforestation on the Yucatán Peninsula and across southern and central Mexico. But during the post-Columbian era, forests regenerated as native populations declined and farmland was abandoned.

Using climate computer simulations and the map, Cook found that, in the Yucatan and Southern Mexico, extensive agriculture and deforestation led to declines in summer rainfall of about 10 to 20 per cent. The decline was strongest where the centres of Mayan and Aztec civilizations overlapped TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Study unveils ...

- **The study provides** "new and additional evidence that the Mayan deforestation could have played an important role in amplifying drought in those regions, including the drought that led to the demise of the Mayans."
- **The study also supports** previous research by Robert Oglesby, a climate modeller based at the University of Nebraska, that suggested the drought — exacerbated by deforestation — was a key factor in the collapse of the Mayan Empire around 950 AD.

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LEFT: LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS. RIGHT: CANADIAN PRESS FILES

▶ Left: Theoren Fleury criticizes the justice system yesterday. Right: Graham James with former NHLer Sheldon Kennedy. James has served a jail term for abusing him.

Hockey shamed again as James pleads guilty

Ex-coach admits sex assaults on NHL star Fleury and another player Fleury calls him 'a monster'

It was another dark moment in a black chapter in hockey.

Former coach and convicted sex offender Graham James pleaded guilty yesterday to sexual assaults involving two of his former players, including NHL star Theoren Fleury.

James entered the plea in a Winnipeg court via video link from Montreal.

The disgraced coach was originally facing nine charges of sexual assault involving three players.

But he pleaded guilty only to charges involving Fleury and another victim, whose name remains under a court publication ban.

Charges related to a third complainant, Greg Gilhooly, were stayed.

James has been out on bail for almost a year and is living in Montreal. He is to be sentenced Feb. 22.

In Calgary, Fleury criticized the justice system.

"Graham James pled guilty years ago, and then he was granted a pardon."

Fleury added: "There is no changing a monster like that."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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▶ Police officer Norman Kamaru dances with a fan during a show in Jakarta, Indonesia, in this April, 2011 file photo.

Lip-synching cop fired

Video of officer shimmying to Bollywood hit went viral With $100,000 record deal he wanted out Bosses said no — so he stopped coming to work

First, Indonesian police were angry about a young cop's YouTube lip-synching antics. Then, they championed him for softening the image of an unloved force. Now, after he put stardom over police duty, Norman Kamaru has been fired.

"Who does he think he is?" a clearly frustrated police spokeswoman, Lt. Col. Lisma Dunggio, said yesterday from his hometown. "What made him famous was his uniform."

But the 26-year-old Kamaru said he wanted to give singing a real shot.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ex-Penn State coach held on new charges

Ex-Penn State coach Jerry Sandusky was arrested and arraigned yesterday on new sex abuse charges brought by two new accusers, the state attorney general's office said.

The charges were brought after new accusers were questioned by a grand jury following Sandusky's arrest last month. One alleged victim claims he was assaulted after meeting Sandusky in 1997 and the other claims he was assaulted in 2004.

Sandusky was already charged with 40 counts of child sex abuse involving eight young boys over a 15-year span. He has denied being a pedophile and has vowed to fight the case.

PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL /AP

▶ Gerald 'Jerry' Sandusky

In interviews with NBC and The New York Times, he has said he showered and horsed around with boys but never sexually abused them.

The new charges include four counts of involuntary deviate sexual intercourse and two counts of unlawful contact with a minor.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brazil to spend $2.2B to battle crack cocaine

The Brazilian government says it will invest 4 billion reals ($2.2 billion) to curb the spread of crack cocaine in Latin America's biggest country.

The program includes creation of a public health network with more than 300 medical offices providing health care focused on treating drug users. Nearly 600 temporary shelters will be built.

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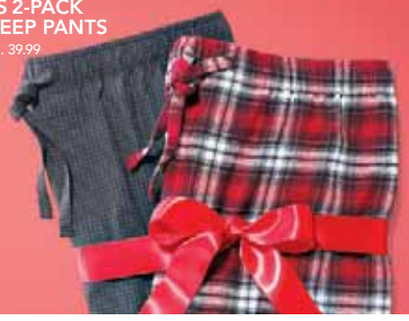

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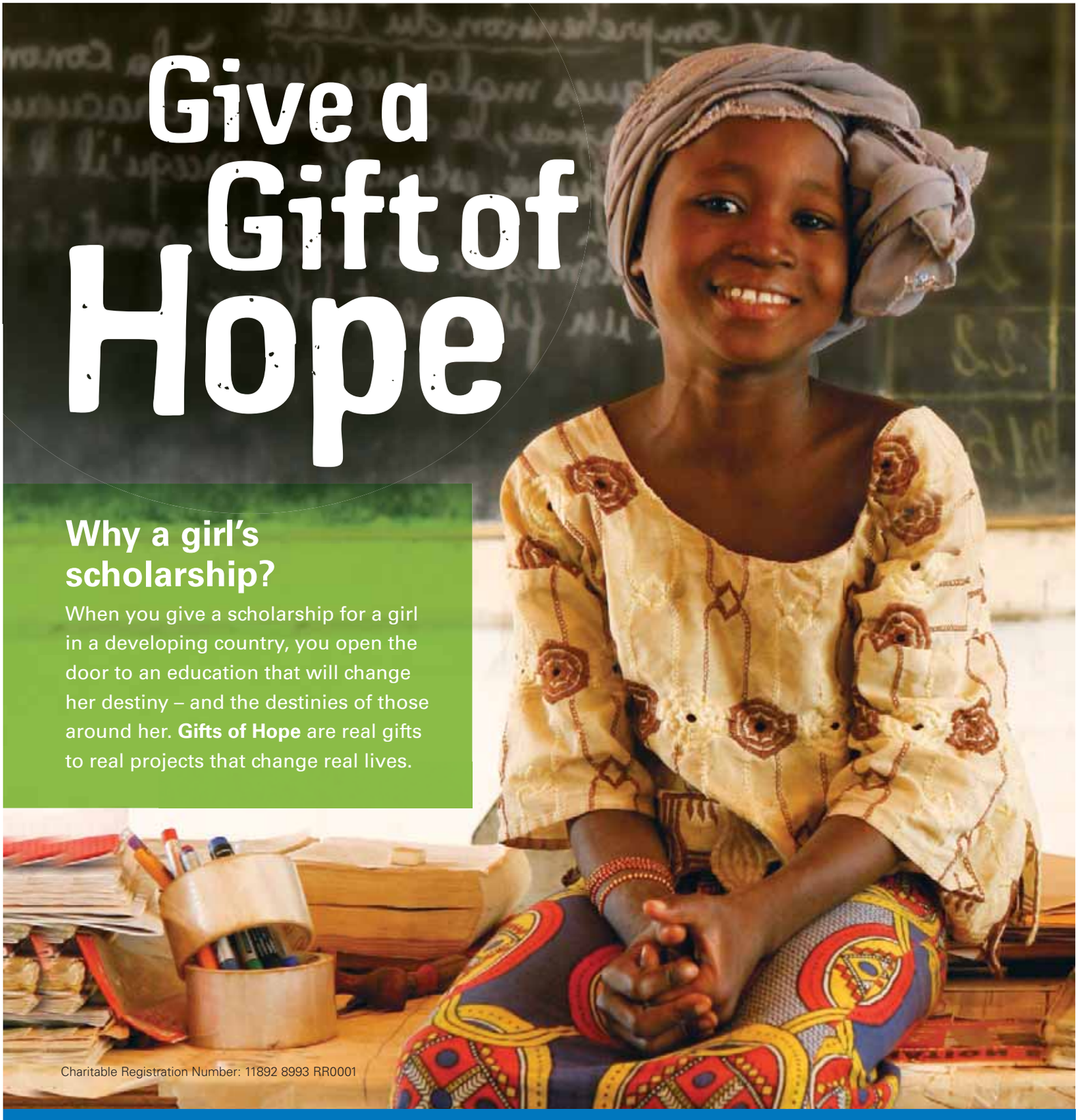

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Facebook fixes security glitch

Company engineers blame software upgrade for flaw that allowed private photos to be downloaded

FACEBOOK PHOTO

▶ Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg holds a chicken in an image downloaded after a security breach exposed users' private images Tuesday.

Facebook users' private pictures were exposed to unauthorized downloads for a few hours on Tuesday.

This is the latest in a series of incidents that highlight the fragility of security in a global social network that counts 800 million users.

A post on a BodyBuilding.com forum provided step-by-step instructions on how to pilfer a person's private photos.

Curious people wasted little time downloading a shot of Mark Zuckerberg holding a chicken upside down, as well as other personal pictures posted by the Facebook founder.

Last month, thousands of users were sent pornographic spam.

In May, computer security firm Symantec found a security flaw in Facebook apps it claimed had exposed about 100,000 users' personal information to potential leaks.

Last year at this time, the Facebook app Sendible was the victim of a malicious attack.

"Facebook's complex ecosystem — with thousands of independent apps and complex data flows to and from apps — is a problem of its own creation," Harvard Business School professor Ben Edelman told The Wall Street Journal at the time.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Gates eyes a better nuke plant

Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates says he is in discussions with China to jointly develop a new kind of nuclear reactor.

During a talk at China's Ministry of Science & Technology yesterday, the billionaire said: "The idea is to be very low-cost, very safe and generate very little waste."

Gates backs Washington-based TerraPower, which is developing a nuclear reactor that can run on depleted uranium.

He says TerraPower is having "very good discussions" with China National Nuclear Corporation.

Gates says perhaps as much as a billion dollars will be put into research and development over the next five years.

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Don't call it BBX, it's now BlackBerry 10

RIM expected to release new generation of devices early in 2012 that run on its new operating system

Research In Motion is being forced to change the name of its new BBX smartphone operating system after it lost a trademark ruling in the U.S.

A court in the United States ruled that the name BBX has already been trademarked by a software company in New Mexico. In the decision, the judge noted that Basis International Ltd. had registered and used the trademark for 26 years.

RIM said on its Twitter account that "BlackBerry 10" will be the official name of the next-generation platform that will power future BlackBerry smartphones.

The new operating system is considered by analysts to be crucial to the company's future success.

RIM lost an early round in a trademark dispute on Tuesday when a U.S. federal court judge in Albuquerque, N.M., banned RIM from using the BBX name at a conference being held in Singapore this week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.Y.C. Grand Central station

▶ An Apple employee polishes a display during a media preview yesterday of one of the world's largest Apple stores, opening tomorrow in New York City's Grand Central station.

MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

All aboard for Apple's new store

Apple Inc. is paying $180 US per square foot to lease the 23,000-square-foot store that overlooks the main concourse of New York's historic Grand Central train station. The store will employ 315 people. Apple paid Charlie Palmer's Metrazur restaurant $5 million to clear out early.

A bigger cut

Microsoft Corp. is stepping up its competition with Apple. It plans to give developers who write software for Windows devices an 80 per cent cut of revenue sold through its upcoming Windows Store. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

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HOW TO HOST AN OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

As one of Canada's top 605 columnists, I'm often asked advice on how to throw the perfect office Christmas party.

To me, the key has always been to think about fun and merry-making, so that you can avoid those things whenever possible.

You don't want to get sued, do you?

As most holiday partygoers know, parties have changed over the years from alcohol-fuelled blowouts where you might see Barb the secretary drink Kahlua from a shoe, to glorified potlucks where the wildest thing is the Worst Christmas Sweater contest.

Nowadays everyone seems scared, rightly or not, that they'll get sued if a partygoer drinks too much and goes all Darwin Awards on them. We, as hosts, fear our own guests' stupidity. (Eventually a drunk driver will sue the descendants of Sir Isaac Newton, whose famous forebear was reckless enough to have discovered the laws of motion, which have caused us all so much harm.)

My usual advice for the Christmas-party problem is to take extra precautions: serve alcohol, but only responsibly; get everyone to sign waivers (make sure the pencils aren't too sharp!); and place written warnings throughout the party explaining the possible danger represented by each item, including co-workers.

But this year I'm advocating something different, mostly because I want to see how it works out. This year, you should throw a party so wild that everyone will either forget what happened or be too embarrassed to bring it up, let alone sue.

John's unethical office-party tips:

• Start by picking a party theme. Tequila or Rum are two good ideas to get you started.

• Don't be concerned with unnecessary party frivolities, such as food.

• Spike everything, including the non-alcoholic beer. It's Christmas.

• As guests arrive, tell them it's a "social mixer" and seat them in unusual pairings — for example, your co-worker's husband with the blond intern, or Ms. Phillips in finance with the mail boy. Playfully point out the mistletoe over each spot.

• Provide a gift bag that includes a game of Twister, several lampshades and a pair of Santa-themed underpants.

• For the coup de disgrace, supply everyone with disposable cameras.

• As people are stumbling out the door, provide them with "door prizes" containing a perfume- or cologne-stained handkerchief, a napkin with a phone number on it and a strand of blond hair.

If all goes well (how could it not?), everyone will have the time of their life and never speak of it again.

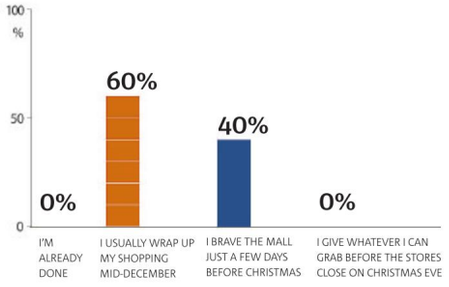
Oh, and if something horrible and/or tragic happens because of my idea, then remember your legal recourse. Sue Isaac Newton.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

How early do you finish Christmas shopping?



Local tweets

- **@junctionette:** .@jodyleila Toronto youth are frustrated! Very few jobs, lousy unreliable transit and the prospect of student loans. #TOpoli #TTC
- **@raeannemaryq:** DelGrande stops councillor asking a debutant to clarify something, "I'm not playing this game" Oh, you mean democracy? #TOpoli #TObudget
- **@SueAnnLevy:** Lefty TDSB employee lecturing budget chief on how to properly invest $. As if TDSB fat cats know about responsible budgeting. Ha!
- **@FreddyShills:** @SueAnnLevy how do you know he's a fat cat? Just because he dare criticize a flawed process? #TOCouncil
- **@simonm223:** Why does every #tocouncil deputation bring out the anti-fluoridation people? #topoli
- **@leahbobet:** #tocouncil fluoride deputant actually doing a much better job at keeping the floor than most people. Grudging respect. #topoli
- **@dubdanger:** @danawhite wear a jacket, it's cold.

Birthday treats for polar bear

KINGUSSIE, SCOTLAND. Is Walker the polar bear planning The Great Escape? Probably not, as he seems quite content after celebrating his third birthday at Highland Wildlife Park in the Scottish Highlands. After playing with his new toy — a workman's hard hat — he ate an ice birthday cake, full of fish, fruit and vegetables.

METRO WORLD NEWS

370 kilograms is Walker's current weight. He is small now; the average polar bear can weigh over 600 kilograms.

He still waits for a special one

MATING. Walker may have to play with that hard hat a little longer after his date with a mate has been delayed. Zookeepers had brought in a potential female mate but she turned out to be already pregnant. Walker once had a female companion, but she had to be put down in April due to ill health. METRO WORLD NEWS

"Young bears are very inquisitive, especially Walker."

UNA RICHARDSON, ZOOKEEPER AT HIGHLAND WILDLIFE PARK

GETTY IMAGES

Daily Zoom

Anybody seen my baby?

metro

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Follow the rest of our list in upcoming issues.

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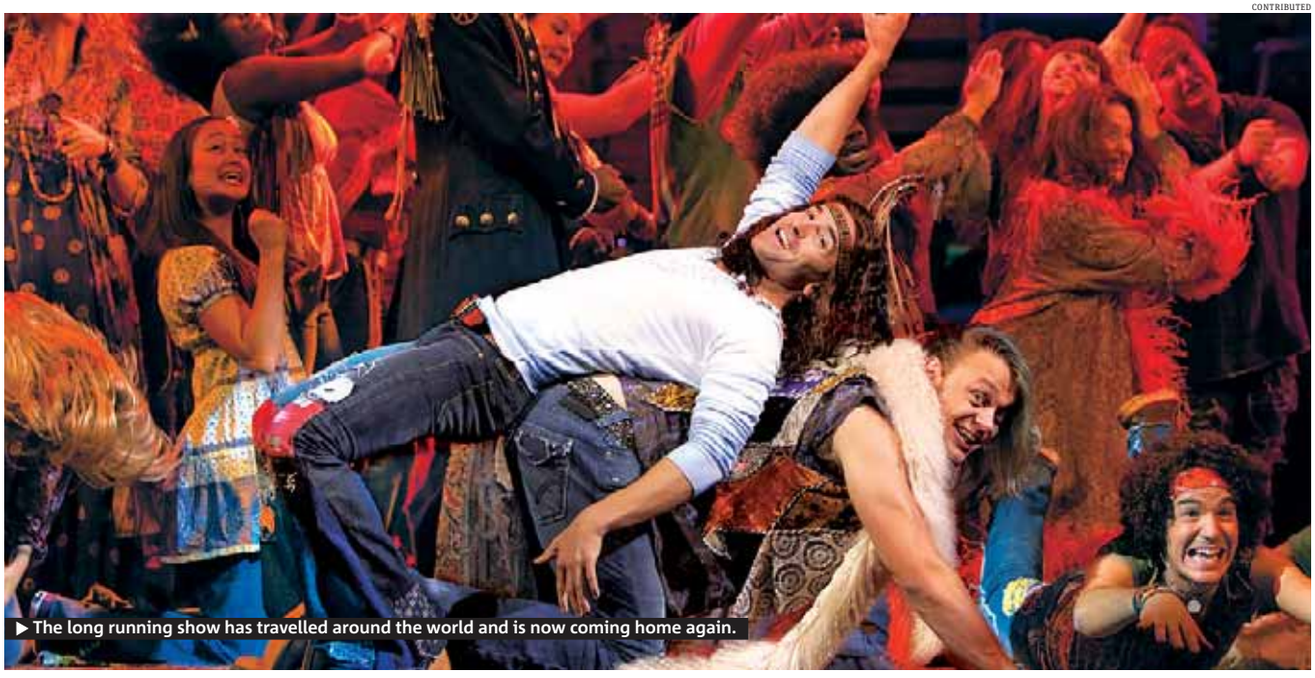


▶ The long running show has travelled around the world and is now coming home again.

Hair continues to grow

The Royal Alexandra Theatre's latest on-stage production is now a homecoming of sorts

BACKSTAGE PASS

IAN GORMELY
METRO TORONTO

By all accounts, Hair should be an anachronism; the musical, steeped in the events and ideals of the 1960s, is so synonymous with that decade that a few notes from its soundtrack are all one needs to evoke the era.

"This show is kind of a gratification of the '60s," says Steel Burkhardt, who plays Berger in the new Mirvish production of the Broadway revival. "There's nothing that truly touches upon what the dark side of the '60s were. It's about the good times the '60s brought."

Since its 1967 premiere, Hair has flourished finding success in late '60s runs on Broadway and London's West End, a film adaptation and a successful 2009 Broadway revival. The Royal Alexandra Theatre hosted the show's Toronto premier back in 1969, so this latest production is a homecoming of sorts.

While the title references the decade's counter-culture practice of growing their hair long, the show focuses on Claude, who's been handed his draft card and finds himself torn between his sense of duty to his country and the values of his friends — his tribe — that he's come to make his own.

"He understands both sides of the equation and can't decide what the right thing to do is," says Paris Remillard, who plays the show's lead.

Burkhardt has been with the current show for four-and-a-half years, while Remillard joined its touring company before making his Broadway debut this past summer. Neither has had a hair cut since joining the cast.

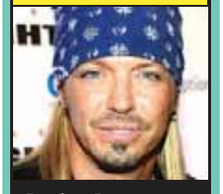
Draft cards and be-ins remain relics of the past, but the universal themes Hair explores are what have given it such a long life span.

"This show is about people finally standing up and saying no, which is what's happening now (with) Wall Street," says Burkhardt. "That's why it's relevant."

Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical is playing from Dec 13 to 31. Royal Alexandra Theatre, 260 King St W. $35 to 175.

2 scene

Parade



Rocker Bret Michaels and Grammy-winning singer Cyndi Lauper are among the celebrities heading to New Orleans for Carnival 2012. Orpheus parade organizers named the pair as their celebrity monarchs yesterday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cannonball misfires for "MythBusters" TV show, rips through California house and minivan

Big night, less than great expectations

The cast of New Year's Eve shares their lacklustre memories of evenings filled with Auld Lang Syne

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

The cast of the new Garry Marshall film, New Year's Eve, had a great time making the movie, but haven't always had the best time on December 31st.

Josh Duhamel says the key to enjoying the night is keeping "expectations low" and leaving by 10:30 p.m.

Hector Elonzo, who has appeared in all 17 of Marshall's films, agrees.

"Expectations low, definitely," he says. "I did have one lousy New Years, because I expected something from it." He tells a story about being a musician "in the days of rocks and caves, before they knew the world was round."

His jazz quartet scored a show — "New Year's Eve was the big gig," he says, "that's when you made $50!" — to discover the audience didn't go for their New York brand of cool jazz. "They were like an oil painting looking at us. That was a big let down for us"

"When I stopped wanting my New Year's Eve to be perfect is when it started working out right," chimes in Hillary Swank, who plays the producer of the Times Square New Year's Eve show in the all-star film. "When I was young I was always looking for the best party to ring in the New Year, and I always ended up in a car saying, (sadly) 'Happy New Year.'"

"I got to kiss the girl I really liked, and then she turned around and kissed seven other people," says director Garry Marshall. "Not a good night."

But not all his end of the year experiences have been bad. In the early '60s he met his wife Barbara at a New Year's Eve party, and the two are still married. In fact she has a cameo in the movie playing a nurse.

Abigail Breslin may have an Oscar nomination under her belt, but that doesn't mean she can do whatever she wants on New Years.

"My parents are cool," says the 15-year-old actress, "they let me do things." But would they let her behave like her on-screen character and go to the biggest New Year's party on earth?

"I was saying the other day in an interview, 'I'm not really sure my mom would let me do New Year's Eve in Times Square.'

And she was like, 'You're right. I wouldn't.' So I don't think that's going to be happening any time soon."

HANDOUT

▶ New Year's Eve star Abigail Breslin admits in real life her mom would never let her venture out on her own to Times Square on Dec. 31.

From a writer of "The Office"...

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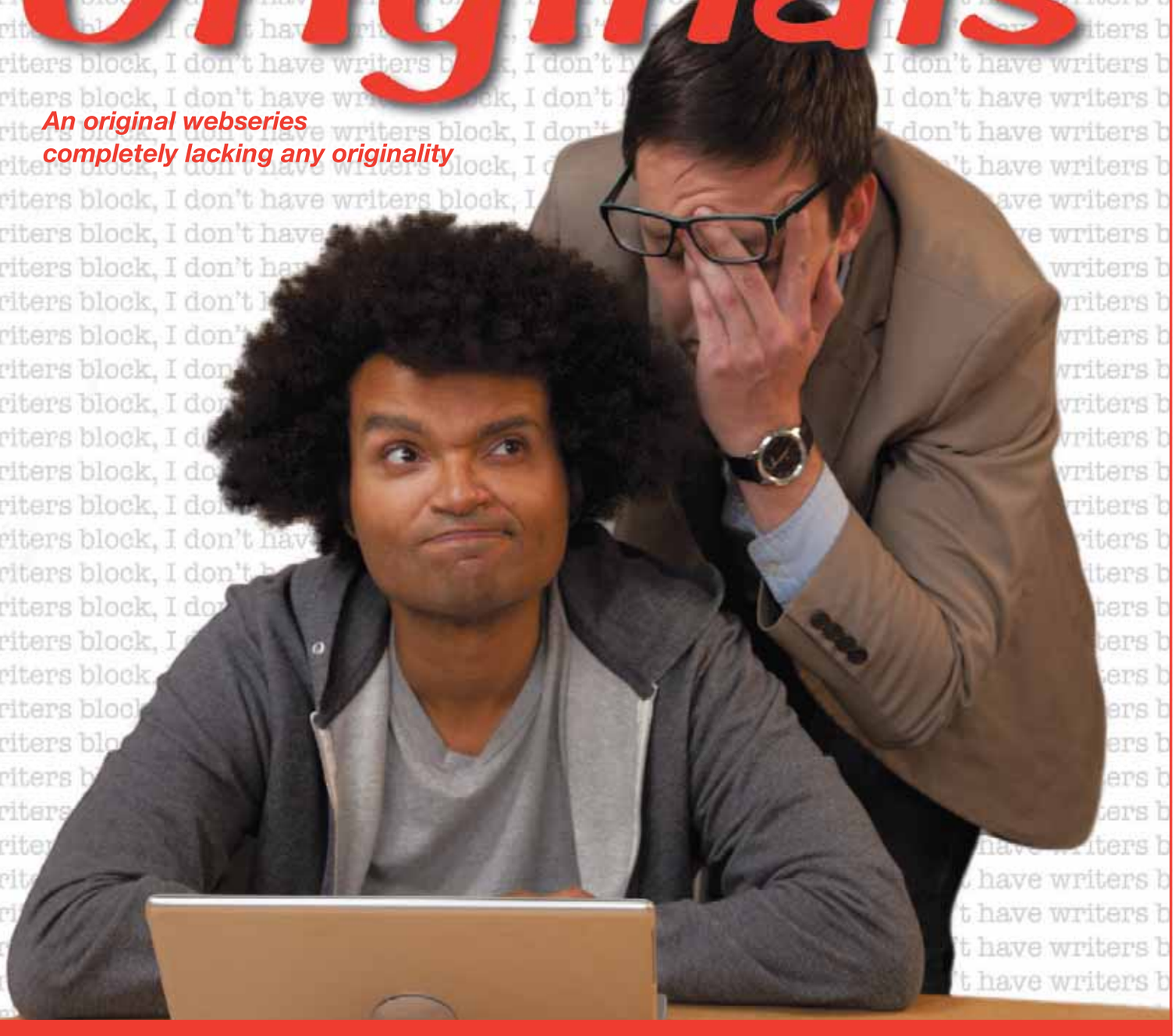

In today's episode... "The Meeting"

Bryce faces the hard truth that he may, possibly, have a hint of writer's block. Ok he has a massive case of writer's block. But not to be humbled, Bryce is about to discover that a pretty girl and changing one small habit can be inspiring.

New episodes post every Tuesday and Thursday. Watch at www.facebook.com/OriginalsTheSeries

Sex and sensibility

Two Broke Girls has a sweet core surrounded by stereotypes and sex jokes

Two Broke Girls co-creator Michael Patrick King says he has no plans to alter his hit sitcom to placate critics who say it perpetuates racial stereotypes.

"I'm not going to change. No, absolutely not," King said in a recent interview from his Hollywood office. "I believe that anybody, when you see them for the first time, you judge them based on the surface."

Two Broke Girls — starring Kat Dennings and Beth Behrs as down-on-their-luck waitresses trying to make an extra buck — has become one of the fall TV season's few breakout hits.

The CBS show has an old-school feel and a big heart — at its core is the odd-couple friendship between street-smart Max (Dennings) and high-strung heiress-turned-pauper Caroline (Behrs).

"When we started out our joke was that we were going to sell it as Laverne & Shirley on crack," says King, an executive producer on Sex and the City.

"I felt that there was something missing (from TV), which was an old-fashioned sitcom for a young sensibility. And so I decided that it would be really fun to try to do two really funny girls, because I LOVE funny women."

While the comic chemistry between Dennings and Behrs has received consistent kudos, some critics have taken issue with the show's supporting players, including Oleg (Jonathan Kite) a lascivious Russian fry cook, bumbling Korean diner owner Han (Matthew Moy), and Earl (Garrett Morris), the restaurant's "jive-talking" African-American host.

King seems at a loss to explain why there's been so much chatter about those characters: "It's current, it's something to talk about. It's maybe a little in your face, I don't know," he says.

He notes that archetypes are commonplace in writing and says the show is reflective of his experience in the Big Apple. "Anyone who's ever lived in New York has walked through an enormous melting pot of people. So for me, to do a show where you're not exploring race would be absurd in Brooklyn, N.Y.," he says, adding that the supporting characters will become more fleshed out as 2 Broke Girls progresses.

While 2 Broke Girls has an undeniable sweetness at its core, some critics have also taken umbrage with the crude sex jokes peppered throughout each 30-minute episode. King says such vulgarity is simply a reflection of reality.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Watch it

- A new episode of 2 Broke Girls is set to air Dec. 12, followed by a repeat episode. Air times are: 8 p.m. ET (OMNI2); 7 p.m. PT on Citytv, 8 p.m. MT on Citytv, 6 p.m. CT on Citytv.

PHOTOS: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ In Two Broke Girls, two down-on-their-luck waitresses are struggling to make an extra buck.

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Hot new show eyes cool climate

- **Frozen Planet takes a look at Earth's polar regions**
- **How climate change is impacting these ecosystems**

Discovery Channel's documentary series Frozen Planet will premiere March 18, and will encompass seven episodes including a program on climate change hosted by David Attenborough.

On that seventh episode, the famed British naturalist will investigate what rising temperatures will mean for the planet and life on it.

The network made the announcement Tuesday.

Frozen Planet is described as "the ultimate portrait of our Earth's polar regions." A co-production of Discovery Channel and BBC, it was four years in the making and comes from the team behind Planet Earth, the acclaimed series that aired on Discovery in 2007.

The Frozen Planet team filmed in every nation inside the Arctic and Antarctic Circles during 2,356 days in the field, 1 1/2 years at sea, more than six months on the sea ice and 134 hours beneath that ice, according to Discovery.

Among the sights: the birth of an iceberg bigger than the largest building on Earth, a caterpillar with antifreeze in its veins and tiny baby polar bears, which at birth are 25 per cent smaller than human babies.

Frozen Planet will be narrated by Alec Baldwin.

Discovery and TLC networks head Eileen O'Neill calls the series remarkable "because it's so surprising. You see sequences that have never been captured on film before — a world you would expect to see in a Narnia film, not on this planet. You see an environment that's changing, if not disappearing, in our generation."

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▶ Polar Bears are one of many arctic animals threatened by climate change.

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No sleep until Cleveland

Beastie Boys, Guns N' Roses and Chili Peppers are among the latest to be inducted into 2012 Rock Hall class

Welcome to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Guns N' Roses.

The seminal rock band of the late 1980s and early '90s, best known for hits like Welcome to the Jungle, Sweet Child O' Mine and November Rain, leads the 2012 class of inductees announced on Wednesday. Also making the cut is the hip-hop trio Beastie Boys; rockers the Red Hot Chili Peppers; the late singer/songwriter Laura Nyro; Donovan; and influential British rock group The Small Faces/The Faces, which included Rod Stewart and Rolling Stones guitarist Ronnie Wood.

Nyro, who wrote such hits the 5th Dimension's Wedding Bell Blues and Blood Sweat & Tears' When I Die, is the only female act to make it this time around. The hall passed on Donna Summer, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Heart and Rufus with Chaka Khan, who were on the ballot for 2012.

But it wasn't just women who were denied entry into the rock hall for next year. Voters also passed on hip-hop pioneers Eric B. & Rakim, War, the Cure and the Spinners.

Guns N' Roses blazed on the rock scene in 1987 with their official debut, Appetite for Destruction. Fronted by siren-voiced singer Axl Rose, with Slash and Izzy Stradlin on guitars, Duff McKagan on bass and Steven Adler on drums, the group dominated music with its aggressive rock grooves. Early in their career they were criticized for lyrics in the song One in a Million deemed as homophobic, misogynistic and racist. They were also defined by their dysfunction, gleefully embodying the mantra of sex, drugs and rock and roll.

The band sold millions and millions of albums, providing a sharp contrast to a pop world defined by the likes of Madonna and Michael Jackson.

But the group's turmoil, often on display before the whole world, would cause the core to fall apart by 1996. Their induction should lead to talk once again of a possible reunion, at least for the induction ceremony.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cleveland

Where and when it will take place.

The ceremony The Rock and Roll Hall of fame induction ceremony will be held in Cleveland, where the rock hall is based, on April 14.

HANDOUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The Beastie Boys, from left, Adam 'Ad-Rock' Horovitz, Adam 'MCA' Yauch, and Michael 'Mike D' Diamond are nominated for induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

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All about me

Memoirs are increasingly popular with readers
Why people want to read about the lives of others

With a staggering list of celebrities and average Joes expected to put their lives to paper in 2012, it's clear the memoir craze shows no signs of waning.

Neil Young, Pete Townshend, Carole King, Courtney Love, Rod Stewart and Gregg Allman are just a few of the would-be authors readying their stories for publication in the new year. Lesser-known figures set to spin autobiographical tales include CBC personality Jian Ghomeshi, former Ontario attorney general Michael Bryant, eco-filmmaker Rob Stewart and former St. Francis Xavier University instructor Leslie Shimotakahara.

Publishing experts say the genre remains immensely popular because memoirs are easy to market and appeal to frazzled readers seeking to make sense of their lives.

"I think people nowadays are assailed on all fronts," says Penguin's Diane Turbide, who edited Toronto author Marina Nemat's harrowing memoir The Prisoner of Tehran, a recent selection for CBC's Canada Reads.

"They're busy, they're overwhelmed by the pace of life, by information. They can't make out the shape, or the path, or the arc of their own life. I think people are looking for some kind of narrative thread, some kind of plot that makes sense that doesn't feel so formless."

On tap from Penguin in 2012 is Ghomeshi's 1982, set in the year the radio host was 14 and living with his Iranian parents in Thornhill, Ont.; Bryant's 28 Seconds, about the former politician's deadly encounter with a Toronto cyclist; and A Reporter's Journey from Refugee Camp to the Arab Spring by CBC foreign correspondent (and former Canadian Press reporter) Nahlah Ayed.

Random House, meanwhile, says it's excited about the upcoming Save the Humans, by Sharkwater movie-maker Stewart; The End of Your Life Book Club by Will Schwalbe, about a reading project the author undertook with his ailing mother; and a memoir from legendary author Salman Rushdie.

Sam Hiyate, president of literary agency the Rights Factory, has a theory as to why such books do well. Memoirs, he says, are easier to market than novels, because they have a hook that can drive media coverage. "Twenty years ago if somebody had some kind of confessional story about all the good and bad in their lives and the secrets, it might have been scandalous but it might not have been all that interesting to people," he says.

"But what happened with somebody like Oprah ... is that people would come and start telling you these stories and they were gripping because they were telling you secrets ... it became part of popular culture."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Memorable memoirs

- **The Liars' Club (1995)**
  Mary Karr's account of her tumultuous Texas childhood
- **The Kiss (1997)**
  Kathryn Harrison's story of her incestuous affair with her father
- **A Million Little Pieces (2003)**
  The tale that landed James Frey on Oprah's hit list after its veracity was questioned

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Neil Young is one of a number of celebrities who have memoirs slated to come out in 2012.

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Patricia Cornwell just getting started

Author has strong affinity with fictional heroine of her book series ◗ Red Mist released this week

DOROTHY ROBINSON
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METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

Red Mist might be the 19th novel in the best-selling Kay Scarpetta series, but author Patricia Cornwell isn't tired of her forensic examiner heroine.

In fact, 20 years since Scarpetta made her debut in 1990's Postmortem and the series went on to become an international sensation, Cornwell says she's just getting started.

"I am still quite passionate about her," Cornwell says with a twang, revealing her Southern roots.

"I'm having more fun with her now than ever, and I hope (my fans) don't get bored with them because I'm not bored with them."

Cornwell speaks about her characters almost as though they are real people, a charming tendency that occurred throughout our interview.

And it's understandable — you'd be hard-pressed to find an author who is closer to her main character than Cornwell is to Scarpetta.

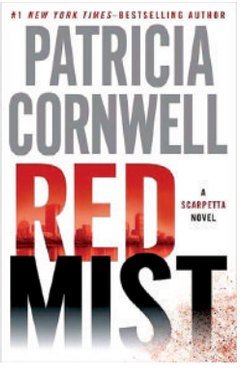
"I look at the world through her and, when I write, I filter my personality through her," says Cornwell.

When asked what percentage of herself manifests in Scarpetta, she wouldn't name a figure, just saying: "I created this character and if she had a disposition that I found objectionable, I would not want to spend decades of my life with that person."

Another way Cornwell and Scarpetta are intertwined? The 55-year-old author is especially known for trying out activities that Scarpetta undertakes in her books — from scuba diving to flying helicopters to riding motorcycles.

"I do things enough so I can make you believe it enough when I'm recreating them for you. I want you to feel like you are in Savannah, Georgia," says Cornwell about the setting for Red Mist.

"And, actually, when a scene is going really well for me, I always have a flicker of a start when I leave my Boston office and there isn't moss outside on the trees."



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▶ Patricia Cornwell

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Feeding a picky little Zombie

Wait, a children's book about zombies? You guessed it

MONICA WEYMOUTH
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Zombies have come a long way over the past couple years, especially for, well, zombies. But nowhere along the way to their ascent of the pop culture monster throne did they ever portray even a flicker of cuteness — until now.

The just-grotesque-enough brainchild of James Olstein, Hey Little Zombie marks the undead darling's debut in the world of children's books.

We hit up the Philly-based designer because, come on, who puts zombies in bedtime stories?

There are a lot of cool monsters out there. Why a zombie?

I was always super into monster stories growing up. One year on Thanksgiving, I remember some older cousins watching Day of the Dead, and I wasn't allowed to watch it, but I did catch on that if you got bitten, you became a zombie.

I thought, "Wow, what an easy way to be a monster." Anyone can be a zombie.

Your hungry little zombie has a real personality. Where did he come from?

It really just started as a thing to see if I could do it. But as I started drawing this character, he kind of ended up having this persistent, grumpy personality. And so it's not so much a children's book about eating brains — it's a children's book about being grumpy.

Did you hold back anything for the kids?

I just wrote it for someone in their 20s or 30s. Kids, I don't know how else to say this, but they're great b.s. detectors if you try to talk down to them.

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Specific compounds within the herbal extracts inhibit the 5-alpha-reductase *(and therefore reduce DHT)* to prevent or slow down the rate of hair loss. This process is the principle by which the prescription drugs such as Propecia *(finasteride)* work. However, BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains additional compounds which remove excess cholesterol and testosterone – the building blocks of DHT.

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Anyone experiencing new growth will see it within four to six months. Once results become apparent, some users are able to reduce their BIO-FEN PLUS™ supplement dose to one capsule every second or every third day. Some clients will continue to take BIO-FEN PLUS™ daily. Once you stop completely, however, your hair growth pattern will slowly go back to the point where you started.

How safe is BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

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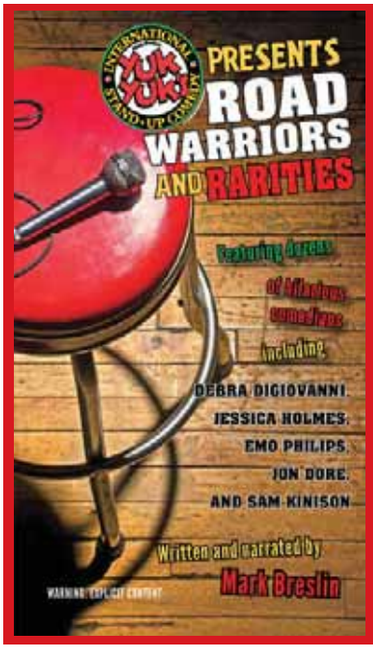
If you have any questions or comments about our products that target hair loss and support the growth of strong, healthy hair, please do not hesitate to contact us.

www.biofen.com

Available at Health Food and Supplement Stores

Baby bump?

A little body language goes a long way, as it seems Kate Middleton can't show up at an event without spurring more speculation that she and Prince William might be expecting a child. The Duchess of Cambridge turned up at a charity concert this week with her husband and kept a black clutch in front of her stomach at all times while photographers were present, according to Us Weekly. Royal spokesmen won't comment on the rumours. METRO



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Look ladies, Bradley Cooper is a Ryan Gosling fan too

GETTY IMAGES

There was a bit of an uproar when Bradley Cooper was named People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive, with a group of fans insisting Ryan Gosling should've gotten the title. And it turns out Cooper agrees with them.

"We were both in Paris this last week and a friend of mine showed me photographs from the paparazzi. And when I say friend, I mean me, alone in my room, looking at the computer," Cooper says in an interview with Graham Norton. "And it's like, him walking around, and he literally looks like he's in a photoshoot, like he just came off the runway. There are ones of me, and I literally look like the neighbour who never really comes out of his house." METRO

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Today in awkward divorce stories

Moore, J.Lo have unpleasant encounters with thier exes

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

All of those A-list celebs going through divorces? Things are getting awwwkward!

First up in cringe-worthy separation stories: While Demi Moore was having dinner with a friend at a private club in West Hollywood recently, she couldn't help noticing soon-to-be ex-husband Ashton Kutcher dining nearby.

"She approached his table," a sources tells Us Weekly. "He gave her a hug, and they spoke for a few minutes." The source describes the couple's chat as "polite" but "very awkward."

At least it wasn't as bad as what went down recently with Jennifer Lopez and her soon-to-be-ex-husband Marc Anthony.

Anthony apparently refused to shoot his Latin reality TV show Q'Viva with Lopez because of her new relationship with 24-year-old backup dancer Casper Smart.

ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

▶ Demi Moore

A source told Star magazine: "Marc and J.Lo had a tense conference call when she was in Morocco. Inevitably, their discussion boiled down to her new boyfriend (Smart) and Marc made the decision not to work with Jennifer last week as a result."

Call me crazy, but maybe everything can be described as "tense" when you decide to work with someone you are going through a contentious divorce with.

Baldwin doesn't fly the friendly skies

Alec Baldwin claims he was kicked off an American Airlines flight for playing the Scrabble-like game Words with Friends on his phone.

"Flight attendant on American reamed me out (for) playing (Words with Friends) while we sat at the gate, not moving," the actor posted to Twitter.

Baldwin was eventually removed from the plane and forced to take another flight, though his rep laughs off the situation. "He loves Words with Friends so much that he was willing to leave a plane for it," spokesman Matthew Hitzik says.

▶ Alec Baldwin

But some sources say it wasn't as simple as all that. Other passengers claim Baldwin was also talking on the phone, and he reportedly became "violent and aggressive" toward the airline staff, according to Hollyscoop. METRO

Lohan to talk to Ellen

Lindsay Lohan is looking to unveil her Playboy spread on daytime television, as she's chosen Ellen DeGeneres' show for her only magazine-related interview, according to Hollyscoop.

"Lindsay has agreed to do one media interview during the on-sale period of her issue, and has chosen Ellen. Lindsay will not be doing any additional interviews to promote her pictorial," a spokesman for the magazine says.

METRO

Celebrity tweets

@WhitneyCummings
The more tape you use to wrap a present the crazier you are

@kathygriffin

Since I'm nominated 4 a GRAMMY 4 my comedy album "50 & NOT pregnant" don't u think my GRAMMY date should b @JustinBieber??

@eddieizzard

I've now run barefoot for 6 days in a row. Feet are complaining and getting stronger at the same time

@thomaslennon

"she's got legs and knows how to use them" is not that great of a compliment.

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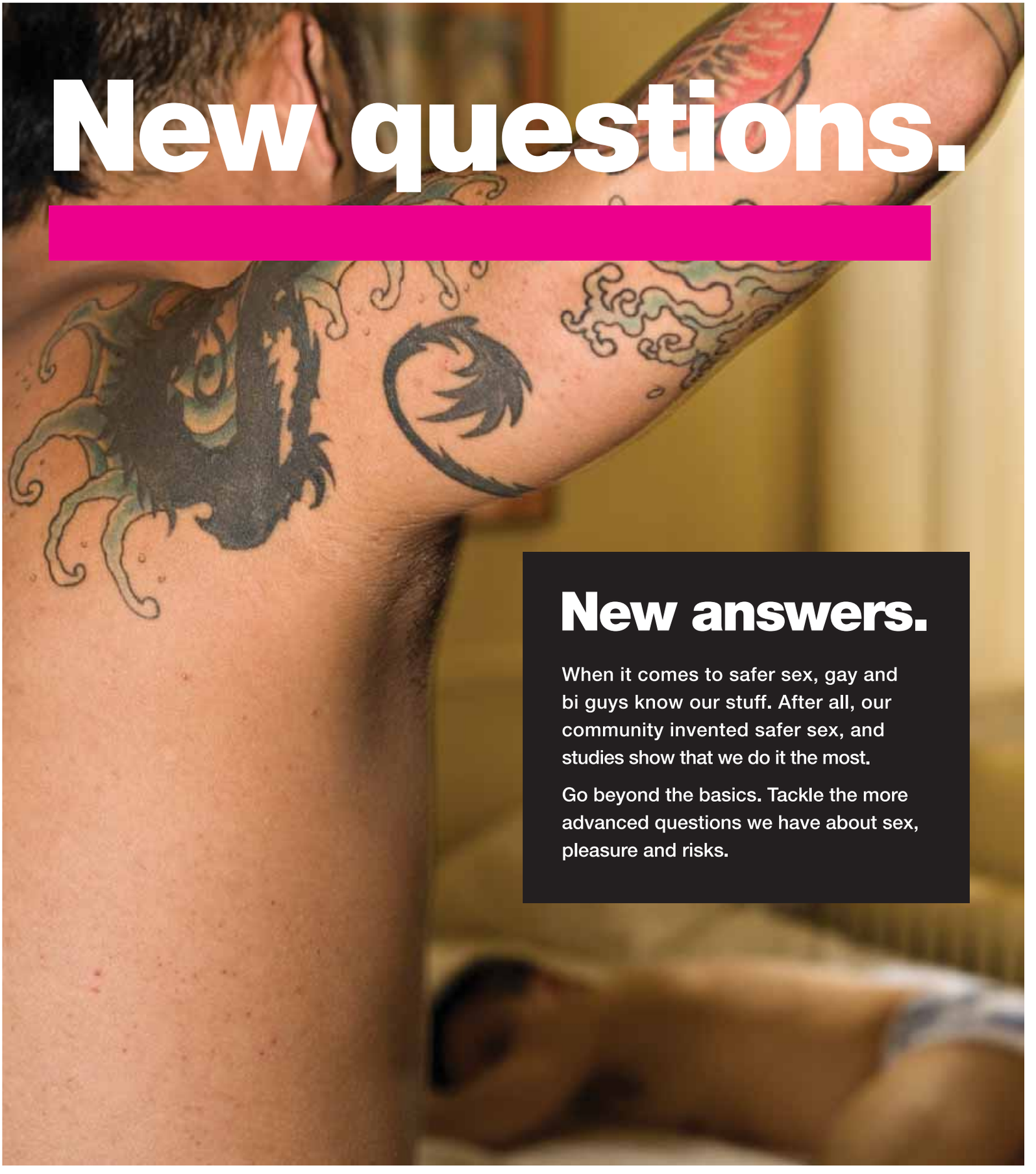
DISCERNING DRINKER'S RECIPE of the week... Simon Difford

CHRISTMAPOLITAN

Pour all the ingredients into the cocktail shaker, and add ice to the top. Shake vigorously for about 15 seconds so that you get enough dilution from the ice, then strain into a Martini glass. Garnish with a string of redcurrants.

1 ½ shots Ketel One vodka
1 ½ shots Cranberry juice
½ shot Amaretto
½ shot Freshly squeezed lime juice

Simon Says cane or a sprig of holly?: *"If you can't get hold of redcurrants to finish this cocktail, any festive garnish will do – it's your chance to be creative. Why not decorate it with a candy."*



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Host with the most...style

The garland is hung, the chestnuts are roasting, the turkey's in the oven But what to wear?

One more thing to add to the to-do list for your holiday party: Find an outfit that creates a celebratory mood, is welcoming and warm (but not hot), can hide a little sauce splatter and has pockets to stash remotes, phones and, for the ladies, lip gloss.

It's the delicate balance of being chic and comfortable.

"I can't imagine any more pressure when you're putting on a party — when you are so focused on wine and food — and you have to look beautiful as well," says Simon Kneen, creative director of Banana Republic.

"Men have it a little easier, but you still have to make it look effortless and easy to manage."

Dressing for the role of host is a little bit different from a guest, with many more practical considerations. Just like every other aspect of the party, seasoned, stylish party-throwers say you'll likely want to do as much preplanning as you can.

Even last month, Kneen knew what he'd be wearing next time he entertained: a poplin shirt, sleeves rolled, with a tie. Meanwhile, Manhattan-based designer Shoshanna Gruss will pull one of her many cocktail dresses out of her closet and pair it with a chunky necklace or sparkly cuff bracelet.

"I have some fun statement pieces that I don't get to wear often," she says. "You're setting the rules so you know you'll be appropriate."

It would be a letdown, she adds, for guests who have put thought into their outfits to find the hosts in something they'd wear any other night.

"It feels funny to put on a dress and high heels at home, when you know you're not leaving, but it sets the tone," Gruss says. "Your guests will appreciate it."

Minnie Mortimer says she likes to emerge from her bedroom all dressed up, especially now that she lives in more casual Los Angeles after growing up in New York and Palm Beach, Fla.

This year, Mortimer will jazz up her look with a glittery hair pin. "I really like the holidays to be about a little bit of sparkle. It's hard to do the rest of the time or it looks too much, but during the holidays, it looks appropriate," she says.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARK & BOND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Tyler Thoreson, head of Gilt Groupe's menswear editorial and creative divisions, likes a deep-red, fine-wale pair of cords for men. "It's an injection of holiday without going overboard," he says.

▶ Banana Republic

▶ Shoshanna

▶ Shoshanna

Festive face

- Makeup should be maintenance-free, says Ricky Wilson, Dior Beauty's celebrity makeup artist.
- "You have to keep in mind that you have many people looking at you with little or no time to look at yourself."
- His picks include false eyelashes or at least waterproof mascara, and liquid eyeliner.

3 life

Gift picks

For the colleague

Thanks to things like Secret Santa, you can often find yourself in a position where you have to buy a gift for someone you don't know all that well. TankBooks's series of literary classics redesigned as iconic cigarette packaging is a good solution because it combines universally appealing reading (Ernest Hemingway, Rudyard Kipling and Leo Tolstoy, for instance) with cool design. tankmagazine.com

MWN

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Jeanne Space

In this hectic modern world, Twitter has become a cool and succinct way of communicating. It allows me to be accessible, instantly speak my mind, and connects me with all kinds of people. Whether it's a fashion question, or you just want to comment on life's bigger picture, I'd love to hear from you.

@Jeanne_Beker:
If you could wear only 3 pieces of jewelry, what would they be?

- **@WhoIsArlette:** A cocktail ring, chandelier earrings and a brooch
- **@ShamilaJiwa:** A set of harem stacking rings, classic honey comb earrings, and a small diamond talisman. Or a Labradorite Boa. Timeless!
- **@margotaustin:** Easy: wedding band, engagement ring, diamond earrings -- chic, simple and all gifts from my husband. #truelove

▶ @Jeanne_Beker: Working on the future of EDIT, for fashion jewelry yet to come! Stay tuned. Exciting things ahead!

- **@KarleighSergio** My gold heart locket from Birks, my "dream" necklace, and my moms engagement ring that she handed downtome when I turned 16.

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If you're sixty and you know it read these trends

THE KIT

It's easy to look and feel your best no matter what your age. Here we compiled some of the best products out there for ladies in their 60s. Go ahead and enhance your natural beauty!

AFTER HOURS

Bedtime is best for rich skin cream, because its consistency won't interfere with makeup. L'Oréal Paris Age Perfect Hydra-Nutrition Golden Balm Night for dry skin is enhanced with nourishing oils and has a luscious melting texture. $30, lorealparis.ca

EYE DRAMA

Choose a palette with matte and satin options. Guerlain Écrin 4 Couleurs long-lasting eyeshadows has both, plus soft iridescent and subtle metallic shades for strategic highlighting. $64, guerlain.com

TAKE A BROW

Brows were full at Jill Stuart, Prada and Alexander Wang; they're a must for defining the face. Urban Decay UrbanBrow Precision Tip Brow Tint has a super-fine brush tip and the perfect water-resistant shade for blondes. (Shown: Blonde.) $24, urbandecay.com

CRANK THE VOLUME

Boost lifeless locks with Hair: Sally Hershberger Plump Up Thickening Mist for normal to thin hair. $13, hoppersdrugmart.ca

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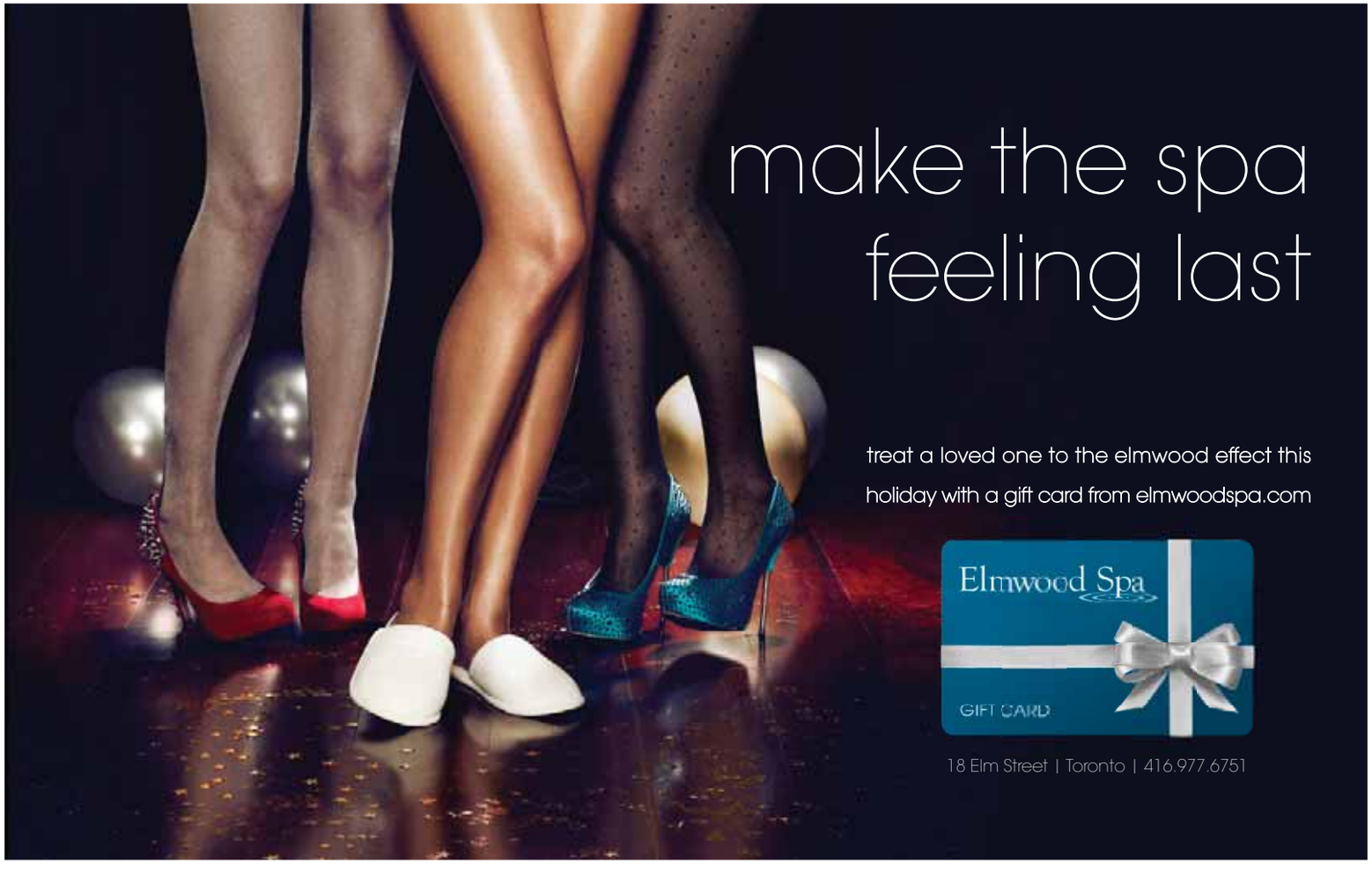

How does Santa do it?

Don't be a fool when it comes to family Follow this guide to win over the two most difficult people to shop for: The he-has-everything father and the future mother-in-law

It's your first holiday with the other half's family and you need to nail your future mom-in-law's present.

Your dad has all of those techy gadget Christmas gifts you've ever given him stuffed on the top shelf in his closet, along with those from your siblings...

TEXT: MWN, DESIGN: MIA KORAB

Get a leg up with some beautiful boots

There's fall and spring, winter and summer — and there's boot season. For many fashion fans, that's the best time of year.

Chances are you've broken out the cowboy boots and jeans, riding boots and leggings and maybe your best black work trousers and those cute high-heel booties you bought last year.

They're all easy, almost no-fail pairings. Finding the right skirt to go with boots, however, is more likely to trip you up, especially this particular season when it seems anything goes with hemlines.

Do long skirts get tall shafts or shorter ones? What's the rule on miniskirts? And can functional, weather-friendly boots meet a fashion-forward midiskirt somewhere on the middle of the calf?

SPIGA

"Boots can do it better than almost anything when it comes to pulling your look together, but it also can cut you up," says celebrity stylist Cristina Ehrlich.

She adds: "You have to put your outfit on. If your eye goes straight for the foot, then something isn't right. You want a full 'look.'"

Since proportion matters, she suggests every outfit get the mirror test because what works for one skirt might not for the next, even if they're similar styles.

It's all about lines. You don't really want the top of the boot to meet the hemline; it could be longer or shorter — and filled in, when needed, with opaque tights, says Jen Ford, fashion news director at Lucky magazine.

STUART WEITZMAN

Ehrlich, a style spokeswoman for Via Spiga, says the most foolproof boot choice is a to-the-knee shaft and a wedge heel, probably in black suede. But, she adds, you'd be surprised how easy it is to incorporate a dark purple, bottle green or grey suede into an existing wardrobe, even one rooted in black.

With a five- or 7.5-centimetre heel, there's really not an outfit you can't wear with these boots. She'd put them on in September and not take them off until April — and that's travelling to different places and climates.

"With the wedge, you get comfort and gain a few inches. You can dress it up or dress it down," Ehrlich explains. "It's chic and cool."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

She's got hands in a Bundchen of projects

Model Gisele launches third collection for C&A

ANDRE PENNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Clearly she's more than just a pretty face.

Brazilian top model Gisele Bundchen still walks the world's most exclusive catwalks, but she's also showing off her design skills again with a new collection for the Dutch mass retailer C&A.

Bundchen presented her Gisele Bundchen for C&A summer collection last week in Brazil, where she donned some of her creations for photographers.

Forbes magazine ranked Bundchen as a top earner of the fashion industry this year.

Her third collection for the retailer includes cropped blazers, flowery dresses and Panama hats. It will be available only at the Brazilian branches of the chain.

C&A has ventured into collaborations with other celebrities such as pop stars Christina Aguilera and Fergie and Mexican singer Thalia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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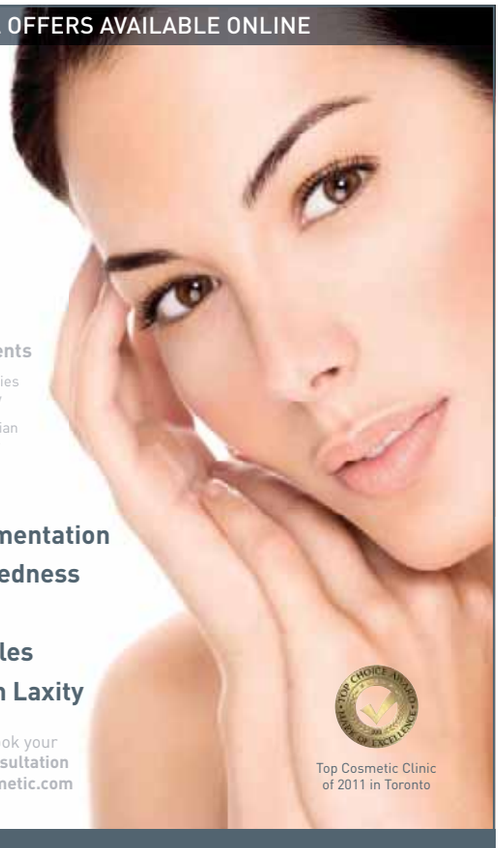

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Luxury waterfront living

The project overview

Rising to 40 storeys, Monde will be the first development of Toronto's new East Bayfront community on the waterfront.

The condo features a calming palette of limestone-coloured masonry and translucent glass, with spacious outdoor balconies and terraces adding gardens in the sky.

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

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Meet the condo

- **WHAT:** Monde Condos
- **BUILDER:** Great Gulf
- **LOCATION:** 5 Lower Sherbourne St.
- **WEBSITE:** mondegreatgulf.com
- **PHONE:** 416-449-1340
- **SIZES:** From 483 to 1,665 sq. ft.
- **PRICING:** From the $300,000s to over $1.3 million

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Monde Condos

Location and transit

Located on the waterfront in Toronto's East Bayfront community, residents will enjoy the convenience of being right at the Gardiner Expressway and Lake Shore Boulevard.

TTC bus stops are located right outside the building, and it's within walking distance to the downtown core.

In the neighbourhood

The area is part of Toronto's emerging waterfront neighbourhood that promises a vibrant, mixed-use community of retail and commercial businesses.

Just to the north are the shops and restos of the famous St. Lawrence Market neighbourhood.

Building amenities

The entire 12th floor will include yoga, pilates, cardio training and weights studios, his and hers hot plunge pool, sauna, steam and change rooms. Entertain in the kitchen, dining room, bar and lounge. There's a billiards room, a lounge and an outdoor pool with infinity views of Lake Ontario.

Real news. Toronto

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

TAKING EXCELLENCE ABROAD

ROOFTOP SURFING

PAUL GOLINI JR.
HOME
@METRONEWS.CA

In what has become a new trend in recent years, BILD members pinned their award-winning projects against our American counterparts and, once again, made quite the statement at The Nationals — presented by the U.S. National Association of Home Builders' for community and new home design, sales and marketing excellence.

Our members have earned 85 nominations in this year's finals list, beating out last year's total of 84 (which resulted in 15 trophies declared at the border) and completely dominating some prestigious categories, including International Community of the Year. The Nationals pay tribute to superior new-home sales and marketing achievements by individual sales and marketing professionals, homebuilders and associates, and sales and marketing councils. Winners will be announced at the award presentation on February 8, 2012 in Orlando. I'll be there cheering on our members and representing BILD as we take on our neighbours to the south.

With 30 projects nominated for awards, the American judges seemed to have taken the most liking to Bisha (11 nominations) by Lifetime Developments and Ink Entertainment and Chaz on Charles (10 nominations) by Edenshaw Homes and 45 Charles Ltd. Montana Steele Advertising, which is known for its tremendous success at the Nationals, earned 50 nominations with L.A. Inc. contributing another 20.

Race for Humanity — an Amazing Race type event that takes place at BILD's annual Charity BBQ to raise money for our community partner Habitat for Humanity Toronto — is once again nominated for the Building Industry Community Spirit Award For Humanity. One trophy already graces the lobby at BILD and we hope to add to our collection in a few months. I wish all of our members luck and hope to see many of you in Orlando in February!

PAUL GOLINI JR. IS CHAIR OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (BILD) AND CAN BE FOUND ON TWITTER (TWITTER.COM/BILDGTA), FACEBOOK (FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA), AND BILD'S OFFICIAL ONLINE BLOG (BILDBLOGS.CA).

The king of condos

Brian Persaud talks condos, his new book and where the Toronto market is headed

DUNCAN MCALLISTER
@METRONEWS.CA

Brian Persaud keeps his finger on the pulse of the Toronto real estate market and has an uncanny ability to sense a new trend before it happens.

In reading Toronto's real estate crystal ball, he examines developments in other cities.

"I'm trying to project what's going to happen in Toronto in the next 10 to 15 years, and the model that I'm looking at, is what's going on in more mature markets like New York," he says.

With the proliferation of so many investment condo units, one wonders if Toronto will become a city of rentals.

"It's really interesting," says Persaud. "Are they all becoming rental units? In the beginning yes, but there's so much demand for home ownership now that over time, as the investors get out, and these investors are going for the long-term; three, four, five years, eventually people will buy them."

So how can, say, a young, professional couple, collectively earning $200K a year, even afford to carry a $750K condo?

Persaud has a theory about walkability vs. affordability: "The areas that are really heavily focused around transit, that are highly 'walkable', are the areas that people are moving to with high incomes. So it's going to push people out of the core into areas that they can more likely afford."

And recent construction in the 905 region reflects this.

"These areas are less walkable, and the consequences of that is that they'll be forced into the car, they're going to be almost relegated there by default."

Even so, he believes the downtown is still within reach.

"For $300,000 you can still get a condo downtown very easily."

Persaud's book aims to take much of the emotion out of investing and steps back to take a more objective look.

"I created a checklist called the Real Experts Analyzer in Chapter 1, and it basically goes over everything that you need to look at when buying anything preconstruction," he says.

The book is a highly useful tool for anyone contemplating a condo purchase.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Looking to buy a condo? Give this puppy a read.

Brian Persaud

The prominent Toronto real estate sales representative is also an investor, analyst, and host of Inside Toronto Real Estate on Rogers Cable TV.

▶ **Persaud** has just released a new book called Investing in Condominiums: Strategies, Tips and Expert Advice for the Canadian Real Estate Investor, co-written with Randy Ramadin and published by Wiley.

▶ Brian Persaud

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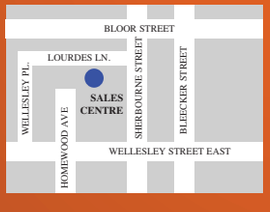

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Idea + Ikea = ideal for guests

Karl Lohnes on how a budget guest room can make for a 5-star hotel comfort with a trip to Ikea

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

It's that time of the year when our spare bedrooms, couches and even our floors welcome guests visiting for the holidays.

Here are a few easy ways to comfortably welcome friends and family without spending all your holiday budget.

▶ An over-the-door hook rack adds an instant closet for keeping things organized for guests. Grundtal Hanger, $9.99, Ikea.

Provide thoughtful supplies

As a frequent traveller, I find myself always forgetting something behind at home. What a nice surprise to arrive at a friend's place and discover that they've anticipated my forgetfulness.

Installing a guest account on your home computer, extra toiletries, bottles of water, room spray, extra hangers, an alarm clock, a humidifier and over-the-door hooks for extra hanging storage are all welcomed by guests.

Send them to sleep on a cloud

If you don't have an extra bedroom or pull-out sofa, a quality blow up mattress on the floor can create a comfy nest for your guests.

The modern mattresses are leak-proof, have electric pumps and some come with foldable, lightweight bases to elevate the mattress off the floor.

Of course an extra blanket and freshly ironed sheets always create a touch of luxury.

My special treat to overnight guests this year is adding extra comfort to a mattress, sofa or air bed with a mattress topper; just a few extra inches of plush comfort will make them feel like they are sleeping in a 5-star hotel!

▶ Add a layer of comfort to a mattress, air or sofa bed. Sultan Torod Pillowtop, starting at $199, Ikea.

Carry tote baskets keep toiletries organized and shared bathrooms free of clutter. Nansum Basket, $24.99, Ikea

ALL PHOTOS IKEA

Offer spa treatment

You might only have one bathroom in your place so how do you make it feel as personal for yourself as guests? Try to strip all your personal belongings on display and keep them in a carry caddy in your bedroom. Supply your guests with a similar caddy (filled with toothpaste and shampoo). Decorate your washroom with decorative towels, fresh flowers and candles. You might want to supply extra pyjamas, a bathrobe and slippers for your guests; these are usually the last things to be packed — if at all.

Spoil your guests

Tips to help you be a hostess with the mostess.

- **Don't alarm:** Ask your guest about preferred wake up and breakfast times.
- **Token gesture:** Have tokens for out of town visitors so they can run errands.
- **Small details:** Add a scented candle by the bathtub.

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Prices, specifications and promos are subject to change without notice. Renderings are artist concept and images are for mood and impression only. Brokers warmly welcomed with a personal introduction. E.&O.E. November 2011. 16850

Deck your halls with style

Design queen Candice Olson gives us a few hints for creating a warm festive glow indoors

DIY IDEAS

Candice Olson is returning for a second season of Candice Tells All on Jan. 5 at 7:30 p.m. ET and PT on W Network.

The designer and TV host shares suggestions on ways to personalize your space and spruce up your home for the holidays.

1. Create a personalized wreath on the front door by using letters to spell out a message, or your family name.
You can use any kind of letters. How about letters from vintage signs or monogrammed ornaments?

Hang them on your children's bedroom doors, spelling out their names using toy block letters.

2. Get inspired by nature.
Use fresh bows, wreaths, berries and branches around the house to bring the outdoors in.

You can paint pine cones and branches in fun colours and then incorporate them into your arrangements.

Collect small branches from the outdoors, spray with high-gloss paint in various colours, suspend them horizontally and use them to showcase interesting ornaments, such as clip-on bird ornaments or anything with a hit of sparkle to glam up your space.

Sparkle factor

Fill vases of different sizes and shapes with glass ornaments.

Pretty reflection: Surround the vases with candlelight and place them all on top of an old mirror to maximize the sparkle.

3. Buy some festive metallic accent pillows and cosy faux-fur throws, and then swap out your current accent pillows over the holiday season.
It will add some sparkle and fun to your sofa for those big family get-togethers.

4. Don't forget to include your children's creations in your decor.

ISTOCK

▶ Candice Olson

Holidays are for the whole family.

How about showcasing some of their art and ornaments from previous years in shadow boxes displayed across the mantel or on a console table, along with some lights and cedar bows.

Have room for two trees? Give the kids a small tree of their own to decorate any way they want — you may even have a future designer on your hands.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Dear Charles the Butler, I love to display fresh flowers, but when I receive a bouquet I never know what to do so they last as long as possible. Any suggestions?

Who doesn't love a fresh bouquet of flowers!

Here are some very simple rules to help flowers last longer.

1. Always cut the stems — a clean cut with sharp scissors diagonally will help them "drink" water more efficiently.

2. When in a large vase, always use a maximum of one capful of bleach. This will keep the water clear.

3. My mother swears by adding a small baby aspirin to each vase. Although I have never done this myself I have had other butlers tell me the wonders of this trick.

4. Keep the room temperature as cool as possible. If the flowers are going to be in a very warm area of the house, then try to put them in a cooler room at night. The warmth will expire flowers more quickly than anything.

5. Change the water in the vase at least every other day.

6. Remove any dead flowers as they die, so that the stem does not decay in the water, thus affecting the other flowers in the vase.

HAVE A QUESTION? SEND AN EMAIL TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

ISTOCK

▶ Flowers need to be fresh. Period.

MOULDY MATTERS

LEGAL MATTERS

JEFFREY COWAN
HOME @METRONEWS.CA

Q: We are purchasing our first home from a vendor and on the morning of closing, our real estate agent is informed by the seller that when they removed items packed into the back of a bedroom closet, there was some mould on the back wall, which was not apparent when we did our home inspection. I am nine months pregnant and worried about the health issues of mould. What would you suggest we do?

A: This could potentially be a very serious problem for you as an expectant mother as well as for the property as a whole.

The house and any problems that may develop are at the risk of the vendor up until the new deed is registered and you pay them the monies for the property.

The vendor has now exposed a potential problem and it needs to be addressed immediately.

Hopefully, you still have a visit left so you can obtain access to the property prior to the closing to see how far spread this problem is.

Unfortunately, you will not be able to determine if the mould has spread throughout the structure without the house being inspected by a professional mould inspector.

Your lawyer needs to draft a covenant for signature by the vendor clearly addressing this issue and having the vendor take responsibility for investigating the problem and any costs involved in remedying the mould issue. You may want to consider requesting a holdback from the proceeds because mould problems can be quite costly.

Fingers crossed that the problem isn't widespread. In the meantime, I would avoid any contact by yourself in the exposed area because mould and babies are not a good combination.

JEFFREY COWAN IS THE PRINCIPAL OF COWAN LAW AND CAN BE REACHED BY EMAIL AT JEFF@COWANLAW.CA.

Cue the crowd-pleasing casserole

This Crab and Rice casserole is creamy, portable and feeds a crowd of 16 a hearty dinner

Many of us seem to spend the entire month of December on the move, going from one work or family gathering to another. Which means the food you make for these events needs to feed a crowd and be portable, in addition to tasting great. Enter the holiday casserole!

This multilayer dish takes the flavours of a creamy crab dip (that near ubiquitous offering at holiday gatherings) and turns it into a meal. It serves 16 as a hearty dinner, but can feed many more at a potluck, where diners tend to take smaller portions of each dish.

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Preparation:

1. Spray a 3 L (13-by-9-inch) baking pan with cooking spray; set aside.
In food processor, pulse celery, pepper and red onion until chopped.

2. In a large skillet heat oil over medium-high; add chopped vegetables, garlic, salt and pepper and sauté 3 to 4 minutes or until softened. Stir in corn and rice; then spoon into bottom of prepared baking pan.

3. Crab Layer: In a bowl, stir cream cheese, mayonnaise, milk and seasoning. Gently stir in crab and chives; spoon over rice mixture.

4. Topping: Return skillet to medium heat and add butter until melted; remove from heat. Add panko, paprika and salt; stir until well mixed. Sprinkle evenly over top of crab mixture. Bake in 200 C (400 F) oven 20 minutes or until bubbly. Let rest 5 minutes before serving.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED FOR METRO BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CHEF. FOR MORE VISIT, EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

Ingredients:

- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 medium red onion, quartered
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt, pepper
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) frozen corn kernels, thawed
- 750 ml (3 cups) cooked long-grain white rice

Crab Layer

- 500 g (1 lb) Neufchatel cream cheese, softened
- 250 ml (1 cup) mayonnaise
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) milk
- 10 ml (2 tsp) Old Bay Seasoning
- 1 kg (2 lb) lump crab meat
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) chopped fresh chives or scallions

Topping:

- 45 ml (3 tbsp) butter
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) panko breadcrumbs
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) paprika
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) salt

Weekly Cookbook

Crystal Cook and Sandy Pollock, the casserole Queens, have built their business around revamping the ultimate quick-fix dinners for modern tastes.

In The Casserole Queens Cookbook (Potter, 2011), they share updated recipes for traditional dishes such as chicken potpie, shrimp and grits, stuffed peppers, tuna noodle casserole, ham and cheese skillet casserole, and more. The Queens also provide advice on scaling and freezing casseroles, 16 pages of photos and more.

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‘The building phase’

Raptors GM Colangelo preaching patience as he tries to put together a winning team

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ DeMar DeRozan throws towards a hoop yesterday as Raptors players returned to training in Toronto.

It was a familiar refrain from Bryan Colangelo.

The Toronto Raptors president and general manager said yesterday that he’s feeling good about the NBA team’s building blocks, has a plan is in place for the future and that player development remains paramount.

But there was one noticeable tweak to his annual pre-season media availability at Air Canada Centre. Colangelo has a new term to describe his vision for a team that’s coming off a disappointing 22-60 season.

“We’re not talking about rebuilding anymore,” Colangelo said. “I’m stealing a line from coach (Dwane) Casey. What we’re talking about now is building.”

Casey, who was named head coach in June, joined the GM at the availability with Colangelo’s new right-hand man, executive vice-president of basketball operations Ed Stefanski.

“It’s going to be about creating a new culture, a new system, implementing that system,” Colangelo said. “And again, maintaining and sticking to the plan. But we’re past rebuilding, we’re now in the building phase.”

What remains unclear is how long the process will take.

The Raptors have a solid young nucleus that includes DeMar DeRozan, Ed Davis and Amir Johnson. They’re expected to see plenty of minutes over the shortened 66-game season.

Lithuanian centre Jonas Valanciunas, the No. 5 overall pick in last June’s draft, is expected to spend the entire season in Europe. The Raptors will likely get another decent selection next spring in what should be a deep draft.

By that time, Colangelo expects to have even more cap flexibility to go with what he hopes will be a strong foundation.

“It really does lend itself to the thought that this plan is in place,” he said. “We shouldn’t alter that plan, we shouldn’t detract from that.”

17
Toronto plays 17 of its first 26 games on the road.

Fans starved for a sniff of the post-season will likely have to wait at least one more year and probably longer.

The Raptors haven’t made the playoffs since bowing out in the first round in 2008.

The club plays its first game Dec. 26 in Cleveland against the Cavaliers before opening their home schedule two days later against the Indiana Pacers.

Training camps and the free agency period are expected to begin Friday, pending a vote on the tentative labour agreement reached last month.

Colangelo said nine of the 10 players he has under contract are available, adding his pressing needs include a third point guard, a small forward and a couple of bigs. Forward Linas Kleiza is still recovering from knee surgery and is expected to be at least a month away from a return.

Colangelo said his players are fit, hungry and ready to give maximum effort on the court.

“You’re going to see a team that is going to fight every night and if they don’t fight, they’re probably not going to be playing,” he said.

Colangelo added he doesn’t want to put a timeline for when the team might contend in the Eastern Conference.

“There are some exciting things to look at as we’re in this process,” Colangelo said. “We constantly are trying to find a way to make this team better.

“That’s what we’ve always done in our careers — all of us. This is about putting together a championship team.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

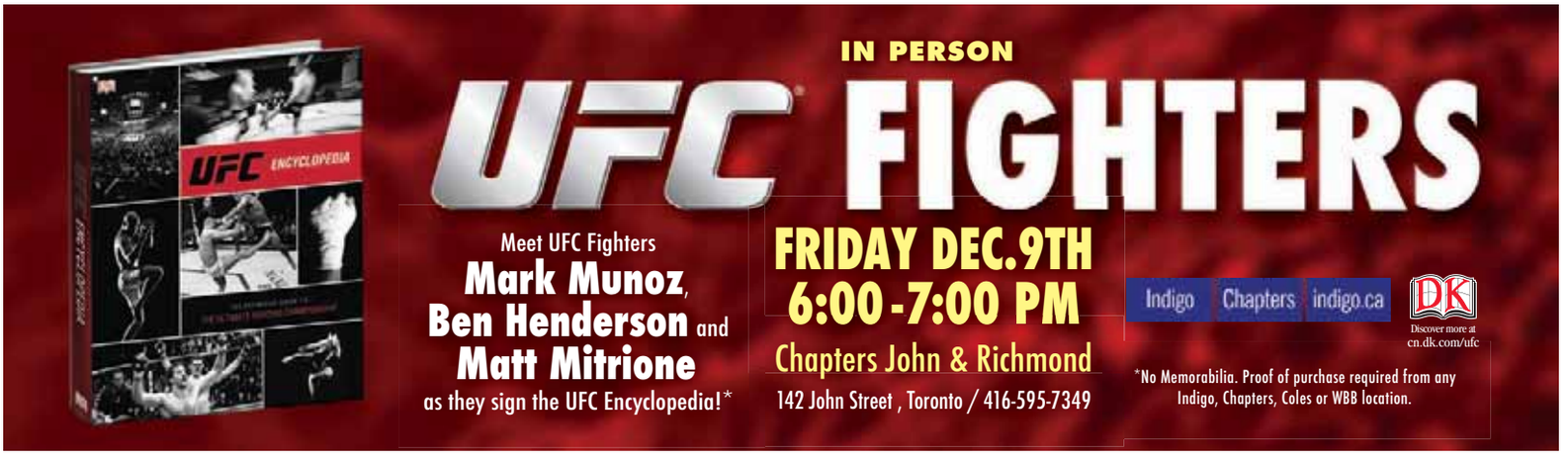
4 sports

Sports in brief

The Miami Marlins plucked another free agent prize yesterday, reaching a deal with four-time all-star pitcher Mark Buehrle for $58 million US over four years.

The 32-year-old Buehrle has been one of the majors’ most durable and effective pitchers for more than a decade. He has reached double figures in victories and thrown over 200 innings in each of the last 11 seasons, all with the White Sox.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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St-Pierre blames himself for injury

UFC champion likely to miss 10 months with torn ACL

A different knee. A different injury. And an even worse prognosis.

This time, UFC welterweight champion Georges St-Pierre faces right knee surgery and a layoff of probably around 10 months after what he called a freak injury in training.

The 30-year-old mixed martial arts star from Montreal has a torn anterior cruciate ligament and has a small tear to his internal meniscus — the fallout from defending an innocent wrestling takedown.

The news comes after St-Pierre was forced to pull out of an Oct. 29 fight against Carlos Condit with a minor left knee injury and a pulled hamstring.

His fight was rescheduled to February, this time against Nick Diaz. The UFC has since announced Diaz and Condit will fight Feb. 4 in Las Vegas for the interim welterweight title in St-Pierre's absence.

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Georges St-Pierre during promotion for UFC 129 in Toronto last February.

There's a good chance the winner will fight again before St-Pierre is healthy enough to get back in the cage and settle who is the real 170-pound champion.

"I'll be back on top, I'll be back (as) champion," St-Pierre promised on a media conference call yesterday.

St-Pierre believes the string of minor setbacks in recent weeks set the stage for the latest problem.

Known for punishing year-round training, St-Pierre acknowledged that he drove himself too hard.

"I believe there is only one person to blame for what happened and it's myself," he said.

He reckons while his left leg healed, he was overcompensating with his right leg. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADVERTISING FEATURE

10 WAYS REAL ESTATE AGENTS CAN CRUSH THEIR COMPETITION

Lee Romanov, Consumer Advocate
President, Income Activator

The Income Activator website can be used as a marketing force for Real Estate Agents by surpassing the way traditional websites operate. Best of all, you can operate it yourself without needing a webmaster. This applies to other businesses too.

1. Get Prospects By Understanding What's Being Searched For Online. Many websites compete online with 'Broad Search Terms' like 'Real Agents' or 'Homes for Sale'. Did you know that you can target your website for other search term like 'How to Buy a House?' This term a lone gets 74,000 searches per month. Income Activator shows you how to find what people are searching for online and how to get your website displayed for these search terms.

2. No Webmaster Needed To Add Search Terms To Your Website Pages. All you need to do is copy and paste the various online search terms people are using into your website pages. Your website will then be indexed by the search engines to be displayed for search terms like 'How to Buy a House' or you could add a specific neighbourhood to this search term. Income Activator shows you how to do this in minutes.

3. Instant Up Dating & Adding Pictures. If you have a last minute open house or a price change, you can login to your website from your client's house and make changes instantly. You can also add new pictures immediately. More importantly, you can index your pictures so the search engines will display them with links to your website. All this without having to pay anyone to do it!

4. Survey Your Visitor's Needs. You can create survey questions on your website, asking visitors what information would be of help to them. You can even be alerted by email every time someone fills in your survey or opt in form. Using the answers from information gathered will allow you to build your competitive positioning in your market. To create questionnaires, surveys and opt it forms, all you do is type in your questions into your Income Activator website's forms section and click submit. Instantly your form appears on your website page.

5. Article Marketing. Income Activator shows you how to write articles that get posted on other websites, directing their visitor traffic to your website. We also show you where to go to have articles written, if you don't have time to write them yourself.

6. Communicating To Your Client's. Without any additional costs you can email your base of clients when ever you like, from where ever you are. Your emails are tracked, and you can view the open rates. If you've added a link to your email, it will tell you how many links were clicked on. You can create your own newsletter and send out an unlimited number of them. Email communications through your Income Activator website is easily done.

7. Add Video Tours On Your Website. With the Income Activator website you can easily upload a virtual tour video with a couple of clicks of your mouse. You can also upload these videos to a YouTube account and gain access to a new audience by linking your video to your website. Income Activator shows you how to properly create a YouTube Account and how to optimize your videos to be found by online searches.

8. Referrals. You can set up your website to earn secondary income streams. You can activate revenue streams on your website such as ads that pay you when visitors click on them. There is also a referral revenue program you can activate and get paid for sending business leads to companies such as Home Stagers or Real Estate lawyers. Plus, you can set up your own online store selling affiliate products like eBooks, CDs, and products which relate to your business. Income Activator shows you where to register to get these products and how easy it is to put them up on your website.

9. Secure Pages For Private Viewing. You can set up pages of your website for 'members only' (again by clicking a box). You can then allow your clients with active listings to view private pages on your website once you have approved them for access. Income Activator was built with this marketing in mind.

10. More Clients. Less Cost. All this for $250 plus $30 monthly hosting fee. This allows you unlimited access to all functions from anywhere at any time to update your website pages. You will also receive free upgrades. Go to IncomeActivator.com to view a demo Real Estate website. Plus there is 30 day 100% money back guarantee.

There is a Free Seminar this Sunday, Dec. 11 at the Bluffer's Restaurant from 10 am to 3 pm. We suggest you buy your Income Activator website in advance of the seminar. To register go to: **www.IncomeActivator.com.**

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Pittsburgh	28	16	8	2	2	86	69	36	8-2-2-0	8-6-0-2	5-4-1-0	L1
d-Boston	26	17	8	0	1	89	54	35	10-5-0-1	7-3-0-0	8-1-0-1	L1
d-Florida	27	15	8	1	3	78	69	34	6-2-1-3	9-6-0-0	6-3-1-0	W2
NY Rangers	24	15	6	1	2	71	55	33	7-2-0-1	8-4-1-1	7-3-0-0	L1
Philadelphia	25	15	7	2	1	90	73	33	6-4-1-1	9-3-1-0	7-3-0-0	W2
Toronto	28	15	10	2	1	89	90	33	6-4-2-1	9-6-0-0	5-4-1-0	L1
Buffalo	26	14	11	0	1	72	69	29	6-8-0-1	8-3-0-0	4-5-0-1	W1
Ottawa	27	13	11	2	1	83	91	29	7-4-0-1	6-7-2-0	6-2-2-0	W1
Winnipeg	27	12	11	3	1	77	83	28	8-4-0-0	4-7-3-1	7-2-1-0	W3
Montreal	28	11	11	2	4	69	72	28	4-5-2-3	7-6-0-1	2-4-2-2	L1
Washington	26	13	12	0	1	79	84	27	9-4-0-1	4-8-0-0	3-7-0-0	L1
New Jersey	26	13	12	0	1	65	74	27	5-4-0-1	8-8-0-0	5-5-0-0	W1
Tampa Bay	27	11	14	0	2	70	89	24	7-4-0-0	4-10-0-2	3-7-0-0	L5
NY Islanders	25	9	11	3	2	57	79	23	6-6-2-0	3-5-1-2	5-3-1-1	W2
Carolina	29	8	17	2	2	72	101	20	5-9-0-2	3-8-2-0	2-8-0-0	L7

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Minnesota	28	18	7	2	1	71	61	39	10-4-1-0	8-3-1-1	9-1-0-0	W5
d-Chicago	28	16	8	1	3	93	88	36	8-2-0-3	8-6-1-0	5-4-0-1	L1
d-Phoenix	27	15	9	1	2	74	67	33	7-5-1-1	8-4-0-1	6-4-0-0	W2
Detroit	26	16	9	1	0	77	59	33	10-2-1-0	6-7-0-0	7-3-0-0	L2
Vancouver	27	16	10	0	1	89	67	33	8-4-0-1	8-6-0-0	8-2-0-0	W2
St. Louis	27	15	9	0	3	66	60	33	9-3-0-1	6-6-0-2	6-2-0-2	W1
Dallas	26	15	10	0	1	69	72	31	9-4-0-1	6-6-0-0	4-5-0-1	L1
Los Angeles	27	13	10	2	2	62	61	30	8-7-0-1	5-3-2-1	5-4-1-0	L2
San Jose	24	14	9	1	0	68	58	29	7-6-1-0	7-3-0-0	5-5-0-0	L2
Edmonton	27	13	11	0	3	76	71	29	7-4-0-2	6-7-0-1	4-5-0-1	L1
Nashville	27	12	11	3	1	70	74	28	4-5-2-1	8-6-1-0	3-6-1-0	L2
Colorado	28	13	14	1	0	75	84	27	7-9-0-0	6-5-1-0	5-5-0-0	L1
Calgary	27	12	13	1	1	67	78	26	6-5-1-1	6-8-0-0	5-4-0-1	W1
Anaheim	27	8	14	2	3	63	89	21	6-9-1-0	2-5-1-3	2-6-1-1	W1
Columbus	27	8	16	0	3	65	90	19	5-7-0-1	2-9-0-2	5-5-0-0	W1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Washington at Ottawa
Philadelphia at Buffalo
Carolina at Edmonton
Tuesday's results
New Jersey 3 Toronto 2 (OT)
Winnipeg 2 Boston 1
Calgary 7 Carolina 6
Vancouver 6 Colorado 0
Columbus 3 Montreal 2 (SO)
St. Louis 3 Detroit 2
Anaheim 3 Los Angeles 2
Minnesota 2 San Jose 1
N.Y. Islanders 5 Tampa Bay 1
Phoenix 3 Nashville 2
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Florida at Boston, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Chicago at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Toronto at Washington, 7 p.m.
Florida at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Carolina at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Colorado at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.

LATE TUESDAY

CANUCKS 6, AVALANCHE 0

First Period
1. Vancouver, D.Sedin 10 (Burrows, H.Sedin) 3:19
Penalties — Porter Col (kneeing major, game misconduct) 10:55, Kesler Vcr (goaltender interference) 17:23.
Second Period
2. Vancouver, Hansen 8 (Bieksa, Hodgson) 6:53
Penalties — Edler Vcr (holding) 11:49, Hamhuis Vcr (boarding) 13:05, Galiardi Col (tripping) 17:05.
Third Period
3. Vancouver, D.Sedin 11 (H.Sedin, Hamhuis) 5:15
4. Vancouver, Hansen 9 (Edler, Ballard) 5:49
5. Vancouver, D.Sedin 12 (Burrows, H.Sedin) 7:08
6. Vancouver, Edler 4 (Hodgson, Schneider) 9:40 (pp)
Penalties — McClement Col (holding the stick) 2:46, Quincey Col, Burrows Vcr (roughing) 4:51, Quincey Col (double roughing), Lapierre Vcr (roughing), Weise Vcr (misconduct) 8:27, Bieksa Vcr (roughing) 11:12, Landeskog Col (high-sticking) 11:59, O'Brien Col (fighting), Kobasew Col (misconduct), Oreskovich Vcr (fighting, holding), Lapierre Vcr (misconduct) 14:46.
Shots on goal

Colorado	12	11	10	—33
Vancouver	6	6	11	—23

Goal (shots-saves) — Colorado: Varlamov (L,9-11-1)(21-15), Giguere (9:40 third; 2-2); Vancouver: Luongo (W,9-6-1) (13-13), Schneider (3:48 second; 20-20). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Colorado: 0-5; Vancouver: 1-5.
Attendance — 18,860 (18,860) at Vancouver.

LATE TUESDAY

DUCKS 3, KINGS 2

First Period
1. Anaheim, Ryan 8 (Selanne) 7:59
2. Anaheim, Perry 12 (Getzlaf, Beleskey) 17:37
Penalties — None.
Second Period
3. Los Angeles, Voynov 4 (Penner, Kopitar) 19:44
Penalty — Doughty LA (tripping) 14:29.
Third Period
4. Los Angeles, Williams 4 (Stoll) 8:50
5. Anaheim, Ryan 9 (Selanne) 19:11
Penalties — Hagman Ana (interference) 0:39, Penner LA (slashing) 4:06, Lydman Ana (interference) 13:46.
Shots on goal

Los Angeles	8	8	23	—39
Anaheim	7	12	8	—27

Goal — Los Angeles: Quick (L,11-7-4); Anaheim: Hiller (W,7-11-5). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Los Angeles: 0-2; Anaheim: 0-2.
Att. — 14,419 (17,174) at Anaheim, Calif.

WILD 2, SHARKS 1

First Period
1. San Jose, Pavelski 12 (Boyle) 1:00
2. Minnesota, Koivu 5 (Heatley, Wellman) 17:41
3. Minnesota, Bouchard 5 (Koivu, Spurgeon) 19:48 (pp)
Penalties — Almond Min (double high-sticking) 10:45, Mitchell SJ (tripping) 19:11.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalty — Heatley Min (boarding) 18:08.
Third Period — No Scoring.
Penalty — Marleau SJ (boarding) 8:17.
Shots on goal

Minnesota	10	6	5	—21
San Jose	23	10	9	—42

Goal (shots-saves) — Minnesota: Harding (8-7), Hackett (W,1-0-0)(1:11 first)(34-34); San Jose: Niemi (L,10-5-1). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Minnesota: 1-2; San Jose: 0-3.
Att. — 17,562 (17,562) at San Jose, Calif.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Kessel, Tor	17	18	35
D.Sedin, Vcr	12	21	33
Toews, Chi	17	15	32
Giroux, Pha	15	17	32
Lupul, Tor	13	19	32
Stamkos, TB	16	14	30
P.Kane, Chi	8	22	30
H.Sedin, Vcr	8	22	30
Nugent-Hopkins, Edm	12	17	29
Weiss, Fla	11	18	29
Fleischmann, Fla	12	16	28
Versteeg, Fla	12	16	28
Eberle, Edm	10	18	28
Sharp, Chi	13	14	27
Vanek, Buf	12	15	27
Backstrom, Wash	9	18	27
Pominville, Buf	9	18	27
Selanne, Ana	9	18	27
Franzen, Det	13	13	26
Smyth, Edm	12	14	26
Ma.Hossa, Chi	11	15	26
Kopitar, LA	10	16	26
Neal, Pgh	14	11	25
Seguin, Bos	13	12	25
Spezza, Ott	9	16	25
Vrbata, Phx	13	11	24
Ra.Whitney, Phx	10	14	24
Malkin, Pgh	9	15	24
Datsyuk, Det	8	16	24
Perry, Ana	12	11	23
Skinner, Car	11	12	23

Last night's games not included

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	3	0	.750	362	247
N.Y. Jets	7	5	0	.583	290	260
Buffalo	5	7	0	.417	278	304
Miami	4	8	0	.333	246	220
SOUTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Houston	9	3	0	.750	310	189
Tennessee	7	5	0	.583	249	229
Jacksonville	3	9	0	.250	152	238
Indianapolis	0	12	0	.000	174	358
NORTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Baltimore	9	3	0	.750	296	192
Pittsburgh	9	3	0	.750	268	195
Cincinnati	7	5	0	.583	266	250
Cleveland	4	8	0	.333	175	240
WEST	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Denver	7	5	0	.583	256	292
Oakland	7	5	0	.583	274	308
San Diego	5	7	0	.417	287	289
Kansas City	5	7	0	.417	163	268

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	7	5	0	.583	283	244
N.Y. Giants	6	6	0	.500	287	315
Philadelphia	4	8	0	.333	271	282
Washington	4	8	0	.333	202	256
SOUTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
New Orleans	9	3	0	.750	393	269
Atlanta	7	5	0	.583	269	244
Carolina	4	8	0	.333	290	324
Tampa Bay	4	8	0	.333	218	329
NORTH	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
y-Green Bay	12	0	0	1.000	420	262
Detroit	7	5	0	.583	333	277
Chicago	7	5	0	.583	291	242
Minnesota	2	10	0	.167	246	330
WEST	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
y-San Francisco	10	2	0	.833	288	161
Seattle	5	7	0	.417	216	246
Arizona	5	7	0	.417	232	269
St. Louis	2	10	0	.167	140	296

y-clinched division

WEEK 14
Tonight's game
All times Eastern
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
New Orleans at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Houston at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 1 p.m.
New England at Washington, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Chicago at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
Buffalo at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.
Oakland at Green Bay, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Dallas, 8:20 p.m.
Monday's game
St. Louis at Seattle, 8:30 p.m.

SOCCER

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

(Home teams listed first; x — advances)

FIRST ROUND

GROUP A

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Bayern Munich	6	4	1	1	11	6	13
x-Napoli	6	3	2	1	10	6	11
Manchester City	6	3	1	2	9	6	10
Villarreal	6	0	0	6	2	14	0

Yesterday's results
Manchester City (Eng.) 2 Bayern Munich (Ger.) 0
Villarreal (Spain) 0 Napoli (Italy) 2

GROUP B

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Inter Milan	6	3	1	1	7	5	10
x-CSKA Moscow	6	2	2	2	9	8	7
Trabzonspor	6	1	4	1	3	5	7
Lille	6	1	3	2	6	6	6

Yesterday's results
Lille (France) 0 Trabzonspor (Turkey) 0
Inter Milan (Italy) 1 CSKA Moscow (Russia) 2

GROUP C

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Benfica	6	3	3	0	8	4	12
x-FC Basel	6	3	2	1	11	10	11
Manchester United	6	2	3	1	11	8	9
Otelul Galati	6	0	0	6	3	11	0

x-advances

Yesterday's results
FC Basel (Switz.) 2 Manchester United (Eng.) 1
Benfica (Port.) 1 Otelul Galati (Romania) 0

GROUP D

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Real Madrid	6	6	0	0	19	2	18
x-Lyon	6	2	2	2	7	7	8
Ajax	6	2	2	2	6	6	8
Dinamo Zagreb	6	0	0	6	3	22	0

Yesterday's results
Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia) 1 Lyon (France) 7
Ajax (Netherlands) 0 Real Madrid (Spain) 3

GROUP E

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Chelsea	6	3	2	1	13	4	11
x-Bayer Leverkusen	6	3	1	2	8	8	10
Valencia	6	2	2	2	12	7	8
Genk	6	0	3	3	2	16	3

Tuesday's results
Chelsea (England) 3 Valencia (Spain) 0
Genk (Belg.) 1 Bayer Leverkusen (Germany) 1

GROUP F

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Arsenal	6	3	2	1	7	6	11
x-Marseille	6	3	1	2	7	4	10
Olympiakos	6	3	0	3	8	6	9
Borussia Dortmund	6	1	1	4	6	12	4

Tuesday's results
Olympiakos (Greece) 3 Arsenal (England) 1
Borussia Dortmund (Ger.) 2 Marseille (Fra.) 3

GROUP G

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-APOEL	6	2	3	1	6	6	9
Zenit St. Petersburg	6	2	3	1	7	5	9
FC Porto	6	2	2	2	7	7	8
Shakhtar Donetsk	6	1	2	3	6	8	5

Tuesday's results
FC Porto (Port.) 0 Zenit St. Petersburg (Ukr.) 0
APOEL (Cyprus) 0 Shakhtar Donetsk (Rus.) 2

GROUP H

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Barcelona	6	5	1	0	20	4	16
x-AC Milan	6	2	3	1	11	8	9
Viktoria Plzen	6	1	2	3	4	11	5
BATE Borisov	6	0	2	4	2	14	2

Tuesday's results
Barcelona (Spain) 4 BATE Borisov (Belarus) 0
Viktoria Plzen (Czech) 2 AC Milan (Italy) 2

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Named DeMarlo Hale third base coach and Bill Castro bullpen coach.
MINNESOTA TWINS—Agreed to terms with RHP Matt Capps on a one-year contract.
TAMPA BAY RAYS—Announced the retirement of special assistant Andres Reiner.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

COLORADO ROCKIES—Traded RHP Huston Street and cash to the San Diego for a player to be named and cash.
MIAMI MARLINS—Agreed to terms with SS Jose Reyes on 6-yr contract & LHP Mark Buehrle.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Agreed to terms with LHP Erik Bedard & OF Nate McLouth on 1-yr contracts. Agreed to terms with C Jose Morales on minor league contract. Designated C Jason Jaramillo & INF Pedro Ciriaco for assignment.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS—Acquired OF Angel Pagan and a player to be named or cash from the New York Mets RHP Ramon Ramirez and OF Andres Torres.

FOOTBALL

CFL

EDMONTON ESKIMOS—Signed DB Delroy Clarke and RB/KR Hugh Charles.

NFL

CINCINNATI BENGALS—Placed DT Pat Sims on injured reserve. Signed DT Nick Hayden. Released DT Cornell Banks from the practice squad. Signed DT Swanson Miller to the practice squad.
GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed QB Graham Harrell from the practice squad. Placed TE Andrew Quarless on injured reserve. Signed G Jake Vermiglio to the practice squad.
HOUSTON TEXANS—Signed QB Jeff Garcia and P Matt Turk.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Signed WR Dorin Dickerson to the practice squad.
NEW YORK GIANTS—Placed OT Stacy Andrews on injured reserve. Signed OL Tony Ugoh. Terminated the practice squad contract of QB Ryan Perrilloux. Re-signed OL Selvish Capers to the practice squad.
OAKLAND RAIDERS—Signed RB Lonyae Miller & LB Carl Ihenacho to practice squad.
ST. LOUIS RAMS—Signed CB Chris Smith from the practice squad. Released CB Nate Ness. Signed RB Chase Reynolds and QB Matt Gutierrez to the practice squad.
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS—Placed DE Luis Castillo on injured reserve. Signed LB Nate Triplett to a two-year contract. Signed DE Damik Scafe to the practice squad.

HOCKEY

NHL

LEAGUE OFFICE—Suspended Dallas D Mark Fistric, without pay, for 3 games for charging N.Y. Islanders F Nino Niederreiter during Dec. game.
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS—Named Craig Patrick senior advisor of hockey operations.
FLORIDA PANTHERS—Acquired F Krys Barch & 2012 6th-round draft pick from Dallas for F Jake Hauswirth & 2012 5th-round draft pick. Assigned F Bracken Kearns to San Antonio (AHL).
ST. LOUIS BLUES—Assigned F Evgeny Grachev to Peoria (AHL).

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Pens put Crosby back on the shelf

GM Shero says star centre will miss two games 'as a precaution' after taking hard hit in Monday's loss to Boston

JARED WICKERHAM/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Sidney Crosby, left, takes to the ice against the Islanders Nov. 21 in Pittsburgh.

Just the news the Pittsburgh Penguins dreaded — Sidney Crosby is back on the sidelines.

Only this time, the Penguins insist their superstar will miss two games strictly for precautionary reasons and not because of a recurrence of the concussion that forced him to sit out 61 games over two seasons.

Crosby took part in a full practice yesterday, but did not accompany the Penguins on a road trip for games tonight at Philadelphia and Saturday at the New York Islanders. The next time he could play would be Tuesday at home against Detroit.

A hard hit in the Penguins' 3-1 loss Monday to Boston — the team did not specify which one it was — led to the decision to sit Crosby again. Early in the game, Crosby was seen with what appeared to be redness on his face, possibly the result of a hit.

"Sidney took a hard hit during our game against Boston Monday night and wasn't feeling 100 per cent," Penguins general manager Ray Shero said in a statement issued late yesterday afternoon. "He saw Dr. Mickey Collins of UPMC today and took an ImPACT (neurocognitive) test, which showed no problems. However, we all think it's best that he sits out the next two games as a precaution."

The ImPACT test — designed by Pittsburgh-based researchers, including Collins — measures a person's cognitive and memory skills before and after a concussion. The test is widely used by multiple pro sports leagues and teams to determine when a player is ready to return to game action. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kunitz collision

Crosby and teammate Chris Kunitz collided knee-on-knee during the third period against Boston Monday and Crosby went to the bench doubled over in pain.

Crosby returned after several minutes. The Penguins did not confirm it was the hit in question.

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Leafs recognize need for speed

THE HOCKEY NEWS

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Brian Burke is many things, including Maple Leafs GM and president, strong-willed Irishman, and friend to all great analogy lovers. What he isn't, though, is someone unable to adjust his blueprint for hockey success as times change. The Maple Leafs' current roster is ample proof of that.

Remember when Burke arrived in Toronto three years ago? He was snorting fire and talking about building his team into an on-ice version of the apocalyptic gangs seen in Mel Gibson's Road Warrior movies — a bunch of Lord Humungouses as intent on knocking the daylights out of opponents as they were ready to score more goals than the other side.

That plan has gone by the wayside. The Leafs are anything but menacing. Sure, they've got Colton Orr and Jay Rosehill on the roster, but the two enforcers play about as often these days as Johnny Bower. And sure, Dion Phaneuf, Mike Brown and Luke Schenn could drop the gloves when necessary, but they're valuable contributors in many more regards than just fighting.

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Matt Frattin skates against Phoenix.

No, this Leafs team has become a bona fide playoff contender because of its killer speed. Phil Kessel and Mikhail Grabovski gave them that element over the course of the past couple seasons, but now they've also got winger Matt Frattin and defenseman Jake Gardiner who can turn on the jets and blow past an opponent at will. Veteran blue-liner John-Michael Liles, winger Nikolai Kulemin, defenceman Carl Gunnarsson and injured centre Matthew Lombardi also aren't lacking for footspeed.

Burke deserves credit for seeing the shifting sands of the NHL and realizing that recent Stanley Cup champions such as the Boston Bruins, Chicago Blackhawks and Pittsburgh Penguins won because their players could skate, not because they could take and/or give a punch.

I'd never put it past Burke to at least try and bring a bit more bite to the organization as he tweaks the team here and there. However, it is clear he isn't irreversibly tied to a philosophy as some might have believed he was. The braintrust Burke has assembled — including assistant GMs Dave Nonis, Rick Dudley, Dave Poulin and Claude Loiselle — offer their own views and input, and Burke has always maintained he believes in trusting those around him. It's foolish to imagine he hasn't been influenced by their ideas of building a winner.

To hell with truculence. If Toronto can win with swiftness and talent, neither Burke nor Leafs fans will complain.

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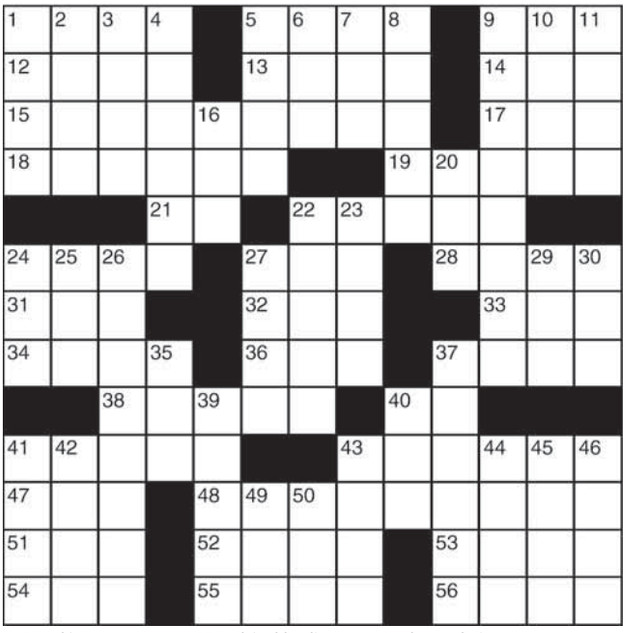

Across
1 Get well
5 Start over
9 Dandy
12 Pelvic bones
13 On
14 "I — Camera"
15 Mask
17 Back talk
18 Advertising section
19 Selassie worshipper
21 B&O, for ex.
22 Dodge
24 — and crafts
27 Hearty brew
28 Sandwich treat
31 Round Table address
32 60 sec.
33 Mischievous tyke
34 First course, often
36 Peculiar
37 Touch
38 Obliterate
40 Yours truly
41 Earring locations
43 Random drawing?
47 Lubricate
48 HBO's vampire series
51 Wilde-beest
52 Greek vowel
53 Radius neighbor
54 — out a living
55 Coral structure
56 Appear

Down
1 Stereo setup
2 Verve
3 Has a bug
4 "Star Wars" weaponry
5 Huck's transport
6 Schedule abbr.
7 Elmer, to Bugs
8 "Tosca," e.g.
9 It barely connects to the sternum
10 Leave out
11 One of the Three Bears
16 Mess up
20 Commotion
22 Skip a phoneme
23 Sell
24 Fool
25 Carnival city
26 Loyal to the end
27 Andy's old radio pal
29 Ostrich's kin
30 Make up your mind
35 Opposite of "post-"
37 Greek god of the winds
39 Moving about
40 Flash —
41 Theater box
42 Sty cry
43 Unwilling to listen
44 Apportion (out)
45 Unrivaled
46 Cheese choice
49 Shad product
50 Salt Lake athlete

▶ Yesterday's answer

N	A	S	A		A	F	T		T	R	A	M
A	L	A	R		M	O	O		E	E	L	Y
R	E	C	O	V	E	R	Y		A	C	T	S
Y	E	S	M	E	N		E	N	R	O	O	T
			A	I	D		D	O	O	R		
A	I	R		L	E	T		R	O	D	E	O
T	R	E	K		D	U	D		M	E	G	A
T	A	C	I	T		B	E	T		R	O	T
		O	D	E	S		F	A	A			
J	O	U	N	C	E		A	C	T	I	V	E
O	K	R	A		R	E	C	O	I	L	E	D
W	A	S	P		V	A	T		L	I	N	G
L	Y	E	S		O	R	O		T	A	T	E

Sudoku

	9		8		2		6	
		4	5		7	1		
8								4
		7		1		6		
5								8
		8		6		9		
1								5
		6	3		4	2		
	5		2		1		7	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

1	3	6	5	4	7	8	2	9
9	2	4	3	8	6	5	1	7
8	7	5	9	2	1	6	3	4
6	5	3	2	9	4	7	8	1
2	4	1	7	6	8	3	9	5
7	9	8	1	5	3	2	4	6
5	1	7	8	3	9	4	6	2
4	8	2	6	1	5	9	7	3
3	6	9	4	7	2	1	5	8

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can't eat, Maybe my life would be complete if you let me spend it with you from making up my mind! Sent you a message. look. Sweetly caring! Secret wish for you to show up at my door. Hold me, please and thank you. Totally understand, if nothing comes of this. I am strong been thru enough to not let negatives get me down. **CAN'T SLEEP**

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3°/-3°
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Friday
1°/-4°
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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Do something meaningful today, something that makes a difference in your corner of the world.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 You may be eager to push ahead with a new plan or project but wait until Saturday's eclipse has passed.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 The straightest route to your destination may not be the best one.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You could come into a sum of money today, and it's just as possible that you could lose it. Either way, don't take material things too seriously.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 What happens today will at first look like a challenge and then like an opportunity. Get competitive.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Stay calm, be patient and don't try to force the pace over the next 24 hours. You may have to wait for those who think slowly to catch up.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you upset someone in a position of power, make sure you apologize.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 There is no point getting worked up if a colleague does a poor job of what he or she is working on.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Bide your time today. Let others make the first move. Nothing is so urgent that it must be done now.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Try not to get caught up in the hysteria that seems to be making the rounds at the moment. Stay calm.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 A little bit of modesty will go a long way over the next 24 hours.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. You may be tempted to cut corners and hope that no one notices. They most likely will, leading to embarrassment. **SALLY BROMPTON**

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